under II—Land Revenue and Taxes on Income, and VII—Public Works Department including Water Works and Drainage may each be discussed for half a day, and not more than one hour will be allotted for each of the remaining demands.

The procedure in calculating the time for the voting of demands will be the one adopted in previous years. A day will be taken as from 11 A. M. to 5 P. M. of which the first hour is available for questions and answers and another hour, 1 to 2 P. M., will be the lunch interval. The remaining four hours will be reckoned as a full day and two hours as half a day. If the time taken up for questions and answers is less than an hour, the remaining time will also be available to the House for the voting of demands, but such available time will not go to increase the time allotted for any one demand, and will only be able for the House to reach more demands.

Honourable members of the Council are of course aware that they should discuss each demand as a whole and vote upon it as a whole without moving for the reduction of any grant or of any item in a grant. To enable the discussion of each demand in the Council it is not necessary that the members should send in any specific motion, and the Council will have the right to assent or refuse its assent to any demand when it is put to the House.

During the general discussion no member other than the Financial Secretary will be allowed more than 15 minutes, and in the voting of demands for grants the time limit for speeches for members will be 10 minutes. I hope honourable members will so adjust their speeches as to make it possible for a large number of their colleagues including the official members to participate in the debate.

The discussion of the budget will now proceed.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: Sir, I congratulate the Financial Secretary on his very lucid, brief and illuminating speech made while presenting the budget. It has been rightly termed by the Dewan-President, as a War Budget and a prosperity Budget. It is really remarkable that during the course of the past five years, the revenues of our State have reached a peakfigure of Rs. 3 crores, gradually rising from Rs. 2 1/2 crores in the last four years and latterly by making a sudden leap to the present level during the current year. Ordinarily, considering the great disparity of Rs. 20 lakhs between the estimated figure and the actuals, one

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would lose faith in budgetting, but, having regard to the explanation of the figures under various heads and on account of the unexpected increase of revenues under such heads as Cochin Harbour, Forests, Currency and Mint and also Income Tax and Railways, most of which was brought about by the war situation we can appreciate and understand such a large disparity of over 20 lakhs between the estimated figures and the actuals. This uncertainty is likely to continue in the next year also. It might be either way. The disparity may be to our advantage or to our disadvantage. But however, the revenue of Rs. 290 lakhs estimated for next year seems to be a very reasonable figure which we can aspire to reach during the course of 1118. This figure has been reached not by imposing any new taxation except only for a slight increase in the rubber cess from Re. 1 to Re. 1-8 as. This can be justified by the present increase in the price of rubber which is being maintained uniformly and speedily on account of the purchase of all the out-put of our country by the British Government for war purposes. But the rubber growers may consider it as a really heavy taxation on account of the fact that they have to labour under various other disadvantages. My appeal to Government therefore is to consider this as a temporary measure and that so long as the price of rubber continues at the present level the cess may be levied at the enhanced rate while it should be reduced if the price of rubber falls below the present rate. In the same way the additional taxation by way of export duty on timber which is contemplated may also be justified by the abnormal increase in the demand for timber from outside for war purposes. But this export duty may also be treated as a temporary measure because it is not likely to last very long after the discontinuance of the war.

Reference has been made to the war efforts made by our State in the contribution of several lakhs of rupees and the supply of war materials and also of men for the war. I am sure that the Paramount Power with whom we are one in the war effort would certainly give due recognition to our large contribution in men, money and materials and view them with favour while framing the new constitution whatever its nature would be and in revising our financial contributions with that new Government.

Coming to the expenditure side, it is gratifying to note that the Government have budgetted for an expenditure of Rs. 285 lakhs which is Rs. 8 lakhs more than the expenditure in the last year. The various items of expenditure may be dealt with later when the demands for grants come up for consideration. I wish, however, to make a few observations on one or two aspects. It is good that the Public Service Department and the Transport Department have

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been made permanent; but the accounts of the Transport Department are still remaining a puzzle to the public at large. I would like to reserve my opinions about that when the grant for that department comes up for consideration. But in general I have to say that it would have been equally useful if not more if Government had taken up water-transport side by side with land transport. I had to bring on more occasions than one to the notice of the Government the imperative necessity of taking up water transport also and setting it on a more useful and systematic basis. It is difficult to describe adequately the hardships now suffered by the large travelling public through the backwaters being subjected to various vicissitudes and changes of weather. Some time ago I believe Government had been considering the taking up of water transport also on a basis different from that on which land transport has been worked. Government had for some time the idea and did also some spade work on that basis, of more or less forming a quasi department for taking up water transport reserving to Government the effective control over it, but at the same time associating the people also by allowing them to contribute shares to a syndicate or company for the effective and efficient working of that department. May I in this connection bring to the notice of Government the necessity and urgency for reverting to this scheme and of giving very serious and earnest attention to it, for the purpose of bringing it into practice at the very earliest possible moment. If water transport is taken up and worked up it will be much more profitable than land transport. It will also be eqally, if not more, useful to the large number of travelling public through the backwaters.

Another head on which I wish to make an observation is education. Travancore has been very liberal in the allotments on education. An appreciable percentage of the revenues goes for education and the standard of education here can compare very well with that in other provinces or States. The result of the last School Final Examination has made itself the subject of much comment and criticism among the public; and I believe there is some legitimate reason for doing so. I am aware that the Dewan has made it clear that the policy of Government is not to encourage all sorts of students, good, bad and indifferent, to be given the higher courses of education by admission to the Colleges. I perfectly agree with that policy and I am positively of the view that the standard of education must be kept high and should not be low. But it is well known that it is not all who pass the School Final Examination and get certificates that enter the portals of the University for higher education especially at this time when the cost of our education is so high, and especially when people have realised that the certificate is not of much value for earning their bread. But the

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School Final has become the minimum standard not only for admission to the College course but also for admission to the various technical and technological courses and also for finding avocations in private firms. It is because when a student goes to the head of the office he is asked whether he has passed at least the School Final. He may be very useful as an employee, but if the certificates says that he has not passed the School Final Examination, he is not given any job. My humble suggestion to Government is that this may be revised on a more liberal basis, at the same time keeping the present standard of education and that the results may be classified into two classes, the first class for students who obtain 50 per cent. and more and the second class 40 per cent. and more, so that the students who pass in the first class alone need be admitted to the colleges and those who take the second class may find their entrance in Government Departments or private employments.

Another Department to which I wish to make a casual reference is the Agricultural Department. I would also refer to the Land Revenue Department in this connection since both of them are concerned with the grow-more food campaign. It has now been brought home to every person in Travancore that the most vital problem of the State is the growing of more food. This is seen in placards in every place, whether we go in the bus or walk along the road. Even without these one has got to realise the necessity and the urgency of doing so. At the same time I wish to impress upon the Government that the material factors which would contribute to help the people to produce more food are not receiving the same amount of attention that they ought to. One of the chief sources of production of paddy in the State is the punja cultivation. The plight of the cultivator is really very bad and most pitiable. Such of us who are living with them and amidst them can realise with what amount of agony and pressure and strain the cultivator carries on his cultivation. The shrinkage of credit has dwindled his resources. To add to that, even if with some saving he begins cultivation and puts up ring bunds—I am speaking with special reference to Kuttanad and punja cultivation— he finds it impossible to drain the water without getting oil for his engine. Sir, I know of several cases where the engines had to be stopped last year on account of scarcity of oil, and even when there was oil available with the stockists by its not being made available for the cultivators at the proper time on account of the fact that the agents were profiteering and demanding exhorbitant prices. Conditions today

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have become much worse than last year. Profiteering has been going on at an indescribable speed and if one only goes for purchasing a gallon of crude oil one would realise that the agent demands five or six times the price. Government have been vigilent in making the Defence of Travancore Rules for bringing such offenders to book. But I have certainly to bring to the notice of Government that they are not having much practical effect. I had personal experience of having to purchase one barrel of oil at Rs. 60 in Trivandrum. I know several instances where for one barrel of oil which according to the Company price is worth only Rs. 17 or Rs. 18, people have to pay Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 for running rice mills and for other industrial purposes. Of course there is the electricity and that is the greatest boon that has ever been given to the people. But for the cultivation of paddy or for other industrial purposes electricity has not been made universal in all parts of the State. In order to encourage cottage industries which are now gradually developing and for which there is great scope of development, until electricity becomes available for all industrial and agricultural purposes, it is the paramount duty of the Government to take up the oil supply and similar supplies in hand and distribute it to the legitimate consumers and the real agriculturits who are in need of it.

Another source of relief which the Government can give to the agriculturists is by encouraging them for the purchase of machines for ploughing, etc., for the purpose of agriculture. There are five or six people in the Kuttanad area who own such machines.

President: May I ask the honourable member what he thinks of the committee which has recently been formed in Kuttanad? The members of the committee have been asked to get themselves in touch with the sellers of crude oil.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: If that is so, it will alleviate the suffering of the people to a very large extent.

Secondly, I wish to say a few words about the introduction of machine ploughs. Successful experiments have been conducted by a few scientific minded agriculturists. They should be encouraged by giving grants and more of their number, and of other quality should be brought into use in the fields because it is only by intensive ploughing that any increase of produce could be expected.

Thirdly and equally important, if not more, is the accumulation and supply of manures. It is very easy to say that we can multiply the food supply by making trinnial cultivation into binnial cultivation and binnial cultivation into annual cultivation and by converting single crop into double crop. But the question

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is how that could be done. It can only be done by intensive cultivation and by the application of scientific manures and that in sufficient quantity and quality and fitted to the nature of the soil. I am aware that some depots have been opened by Government for this purpose. But they are absolutely inadequate to meet the large demand. I know that 2000 bags of manure which were stocked in a depot in a central place in Kuttanand was distributed within a day or two and it is found that it was not sufficient to meet even one-tenth of the requirements of the area. It is the duty of the Government to make immediate arrangements for storing and properly distributing against cash, and if possible, on credit also, to the agriculturists. It is only by such constant efforts on the part of the Government that it is possible to make the 'grow more food campaign' effective and successful.

I may be permitted to say a word about the present policy of the Government in the matter of eviction from encroached lands. I find the absolute necessity of revising the present policy of Government in the matter of eviction from encroached lands and granting registries thereof wherever possible. I am one with the Government in thinking that encroachments should not be encouraged. But the rule should not be applied too rigidly and indiscriminately in view of the fact that during the past few years enormous improvements have been made on such lands. There are several cases where persons have made valuable improvements on such lands. If such lands are not required by the Government for their own use or for other public purposes, I request that the Government will be pleased to consider the question of revising their present policy on a more liberal and sympathetic basis and in such cases if it is not possible to grant permanent registry, those lands may at least be leased for long terms so that the sufferings of the people may be alleviated to a very large extent. With these observations and in the hope of making further observations on particular demands when they come up for discussion I close my remarks.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: I do not propose to deal with figures in the Budget because the Financial Secretary has the ability to make changes in the classification of Budget Heads; changing the credit sometimes into debit and debit into credit. I feel I am not an expert in economics to follow them adequately. Therefore if I am not exactly accurate in quoting figures, I hope this House will give due allowance for my incapacity to follow the Financial Secretary's figures.

The primary and the most important problem of the State, as has been already remarked by my honourable friend Mr. Krishna

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Aiyar, is production. It is equally important that we should also consider the question of distribution as well as the provision of funds to get food supplies. Therefore the problem of production really implies three different items namely production distribution and finance. It is unnecessary for me to deal with the opinions that have already been expressed either in this House or in another place. Having been satisfied with this great need let us examine the departments which are specially connected with these things. I feel with a certain amount of regret that their work is very inadequate. Though much has been said about the development of agriculture, the Budget provision for Agriculture is only Rs. 1,60,000. Deduct the salary of the workers and the actual amount that is intended for the development of agriculture on land is about Rs. 12,000. The Financial Secretary in his speech under the heading 'Agriculture' disposes the problem of production by saying that 16 or 17 manure depots have been opened in the State. If agriculture is so important and if that is the crying need of the hour, how can that be achieved by these depots? How could we or anybody be satisfied for the further development of agriculture by opening 16 manure depots in certain parts of the State.

The same thing may be said about forests. Every body in the State except the departmental head and the officers under him says that there are large areas in the forests which could be taken out for agricultural purposes. Conservator after Conservator has protested against this for the safety of the land. On going through the accounts I find that out of about Rs. 24 lakhs, Rs. 27,000 is reserved for sowing and planting trees. No reference has been made to the opening up of reserves for agriculture. I understand that the present Conservator has some idea of opening up some parts of the reserve for agricultural purposes. But what is the use of merely saying when there is an emergency that it is an important factor, we are going to open it, we are making proposals with regard to it, and so on. Why not go ahead and do it for the sake of the public.

The same may be said about the P. W. Department. Those of us who know the condition of the people who live along the banks of the Pampa and Manimala rivers know the hardship of the people. I think the Chief Engineer himself personally knows about it. I say the Chief Engineer because only people who have lands there or who are socially-minded will reach those places. It is said that these are places which God has not intended for people to live. I think some 3 or 4 years ago the question of opening a a spill-way at Thottappally was taken up. In fact an estimate was prepared for this purpose but somehow that was dropped. Large areas have to be cultivated. Floods are washing away large tracts of lands. So it is the duty of the Government to see that a

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spill-way is constructed at Thottappally so that the water from the rivers may flow to the ocean. We are thinking of lift-irrigation in certain places while we cannot solve this problem. The P. W. departmental authorities always complain that it is the Land Revenue Department that stands in their way. I know places where for the last twelve years people who have given parts of their land for roads are still paying tax for them for the simple reason that the Land Revenue Department has not taken proper steps in time.

Now I come to the Co-operative Department. The question may be asked why not the Co-operative Societies take up joint cultivation. But I have not the courage to say so now. In order to emphasise this aspect of the question I want the attention of the House to another important fact. Turn to page 36 of the Audit Report where it is stated that savings accrued in 30 out of 37 voted grants, and that a list of them is then given. Savings are made mainly out of Agricultural Loans, Industrial Loans, Public Works Department, Electrical Department and so on. When we cry that we need this and we need that and when funds are provided for by the Government, they are being saved. For whose sake we do not know. Compare the Budget of one year with that of another year and see how much amount has been saved. Out of 37 departments savings have been effected in 30. I feel that no departmental head should be allowed to save funds allowed for his department. If the Government feel that a certain amount of money could be spent for a particular department, why should a departmental head save a certain amount out of that? I, for one, cannot see the reason. After all Government want its people to be happy and prosperous and why should the departmental head say that a certain amount has been saved.

Mr. E. G. Salter: May I know if the honourable member will be good enough to say what steps should be taken if due to international situation part of iron or other materials are not available?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: We want patriotic experts to produce these things themselves. After all why should we get down experts from outside if they are not able to come to our rescue on such occasions as these.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know whether such patriotic sentiments can produce parts of iron and steel without the necessary machinery?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: If patriotism cannot intelligence can.

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Ours is an agricultural country and every one wants to acquire as much as he can. The man in the street condemns the Government servants. The merchant in his greediness stores in his godowns as much as he can waiting for an increase in the price of the article. The big land-lord keeps his paddy in his room trying for a chance to export it to other places if possible at high prices.

President : That cannot be done.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla : Or they keep the paddy till Karkadagom or Chingom when they are sure to get an increased price when people will be in urgent need of them. That, I think, is the main reason for the abnormal rise in the price of paddy. Every man tries to get as much as he can. Under these circumstances it is the duty of the Government to appoint honest and upright men who will do a certain amount of honest work. I have heard that during the last war the prices went very much high and the gentleman who was in charge of those things was not of much service to the people. But now I understand that the Division Peishkars are doing excellent work. But that is not enough. We want more. I heard that a circular was issued sometime ago saying that a census of paddy should be taken and that all those who have more than 150 paras of paddy should give them up. I do not know how the figure 150 has been arrived at. It needs some explanation.

President : The returns are being sent up to Government and they are making good use of them.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla : I think that Government ought to fix up the price of paddy and other food stuffs and see that such prices are adhered to by the merchants. I know that there are wealthy people who would not part with their paddy. One man came and asked advice from me whether he could store paddy in sacks and keep them under water in the river. I said that I am not an expert and that the Agricultural Director or some officer of that Department will be in a better position to do that. So everything depends upon the man who choose to look after these things. The best and the most honest man should be taken.

Then take the case of the Industries Department. For that only a provision of Rs. 86,000 is provided in the Budget. From this deduct the salary of the workers. The only work that the Department does is weaving. It runs a school at Nagercoil with a few people. They go about teaching how to weave. I have personally enquired into the matter. We can get weaving instructors for much less salary than what you are giving to them. In this connection I must express my thankfulness to the Government for their porposal to give one rupee as war allowance to those who get a monthly salary of Rs. 15 and less. But I am sorry to note that only Government servants are taken into account in this respect. There are others who are also equally suffering. But they are

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non-officials. I do not think that Government should make any difference in this respect between officials and non-officials, particularly in the case of teachers of aided schools who get Rs. 8 and sometimes less. Think of that army of people who have their work to do with very little emolument. How could the Government refuse relief to this large body of men? It grieves me to think of their lot, Sir.

Sir, I want only to make two more observations. Fisrtly, I want to express my thankfulness to the Government for the increasing interest which they take for the development of the rural areas and thus bringing relief to the people. It is in keeping with the progressive ideas to realise that the Government exists not only to enforce law and order but more than that to give facilities to the citizens to get the necessary amenities of life so that they could keep their body and soul together. In fact, one of the things that Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar realised and achieved was his real attempt to relieve the distress of the poor. I had spent long hours with him in discussing this question of relief to the poor. I was glad that he took a really keen interest in the welfare of the poor and he was really anxious to lift them out of the mire. To my mind, Sir, his greatness consists more in his solicitude for the poor and the helpless than in his other qualities. And truly it is said that the greatness of a man depends on his ability to uplift the lowliest and the lost. I hope, Sir, that the policy which he has successfully pursued in this direction will be followed with equal success in your regime.

One more point I have to deal. I congratulate the Government for the amount that has been set apart for a fresh election of the Legislative Council. If I express the mind of the country I may say that the country wants an election at present. I hope, even I may lose my seat, but all the same the country needs a fresh election next year so that we will have fresh men to tackle the problems which we were facing for the last 5 years.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, the usual budget season has commenced; the usual budget speech is there and I must also make my usual observations. In me, personally, this budget does not evoke any particular response except the feeling—rather a chronological feeling—merely that another year has passed. I do not mean to say anything disparaging to the budget nor do I want particularly to utter any praise of it. This *pâthivukanâkku* has given only a simple 'arithmetical' satisfaction so to speak by showing that the revenue has gone up. I am glad that it has gone up. In the other sister States also it has gone up during the current year. It also brings one satisfaction to see that our State is

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also getting better along with her neighbours. States like Baroda and Cochin also show prosperity budgets. Therefore we have the feeling of being prosperous along with prosperous neighbours.

Before I go on to speak anything on the budget I may be excused if I request the Governmet to issue a circular that no compliments should be allowed to be paid by Government officers either to the head of the administration or to the sovereign. Now it is embarrassing to some of us who occasionally have to travel outside Travancore. Budget speech of the finance member in all civilised countries according to constitutional practice is supposed to be the financial statement of the Government. I do not say that persons who are complimented do not deserve those compliments. I do not say that the present Financial Secretary went out of the way in the matter of proffering compliments. He was only following the precedent set up two or three years ago. Personanally, Sir, I would not like my cook to come and tell me "What a good lawyer you are" or "What a good Legislator you are!" That must be the attitude taken up by any right minded person when his employees go out of the way to pay compliments.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: Does this apply to non-officials also?

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: No. They can. In this connection I would refer the honourable members to the statements made by successive Chancellors of Exchequer in the British Parliament. There you don't find any reference to the Prime Minister or others or even to the Crown. Except on ceremonial occasions, it is a bad precedent for the House to go on complimenting persons. This observation applies to non-officials also.

Sir, now I must refer to an important fact. I was rather surprised to see that there was absolutely no reference to any possibility of constitutional reforms in either the Administration Report or in the Budget speech. I do not like the Government giving the impression that there is no constitutional agitation for any political reforms. But, Sir, I am constrained to sound a very polite note of warning that it is better to reckon with the realities than to smother legitimate ambitions of the people by subsidising syndicated news agencies or newspapers. There is very great discontent in the land because Government do not envisage the necessity of any reforms and we are not children to be told that this is the time of war and nothing could be talked about it. We also occasionally read newspapers and understand what is happening elsewhere. If Sir Stafford Crips could come for effecting constitutional reforms, flying over a vast area—not very safe for passing through—and if all other countries thinking of reforms, it is strange that in a most progressive country like Travancore, we are told—some of us who had their education in the West or in America,—that we, the Orientals should not think

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of such things as it is war time. But our people have got a sense of proportion and they are not trying to embarrass the Government in any manner. Therefore, I would very politely request the Government to make some concession to the popular demand in this matter. I also wish Government to issue another circular that no Government servants should inoculate us against loyalty by their making speeches on loyalty.

The House adjourned at 1 P. M. and met again at 2 O' clock with the Dewan President in the chair.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar (*Director of Agriculture*) was sworn in.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, in a particular matter I was speaking about I must say that it must not be overdone. Then coming to the budget, Sir, I am really grieved to see that the nation-building Departments are not given their due share. I would first of all refer to the P. W. D. For new works and for communications only a very nominal amount is set apart. The other day I was reading a statement of a very distinguished man in British India saying that it is one of the most important things, for the purpose of getting over the difficulties consequent on the war situation, to construct more roads and to allot more funds for their maintenance. But owing to a mistaken sense of economy Government are reducing the amount for maintenance. Perhaps, they are not aware of the fact, that from the point of view of public finance, they are jeopardising the interests of the State; they have invested lakhs of rupees or say millions of rupees upon these roads, and if a sense of economy prompts us to stint money in this respect from the point of view of public finance a larger part of our investments would end in loss.

Now-a-days the question of transport has loomed large. There is particular reason why in a war time budget larger sums of money would have been set apart for opening new roads, and canals as well as for the maintenance of the existing ones.

Then I come to the question of Education. As an honourable member of this House, who was elected to represent the Council in the University, I do not want to say anything against allotment for the University. In fact, I must tell the honourable House that the University is making a very good progress in many directions. But that must not blind us to the fact that the Government are inclined to ignore elementary or secondary education because of the glamour and importance of the University. I find that there is absolutely no provision for adequate salaries to be paid to the masters of the elementary schools and also for affording grants-in-aid to private schools.

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Year after year, it has been pointed out on the floor of this House that there is urgent necessity of making better school buildings for elementary school children and of providing adequate furniture to these elementary schools and of giving clothes and text books and if possible mid-day meals to the poor school children. No provision is made for these purposes. My honourable friend Mr. Kuruvilla has rightly said that the grants made for agriculture, co-operation and industries also seem to be ridiculously low. As I said some time ago, I do not think that there is anything, so to speak, away eternal 'varieties' or the first principles of any religion or of administrative art that we must maintain these departments. The only justification for keeping these departments is the work turned out by them. If the Government find that they cannot afford to give adequate funds to get adequate work from these departments nothing should stand in their way of their closing these departments uncéremoniously. That leads me on to an allied subject. As was referred to by my honourable friend Mr. Kuruvilla the most important problem that faces us today is the problem of food. We must produce more food by raising more food crops. Like a good Christian he has induced me to quote from the Bible. "Which of you, by thinking thought, could add a cubit into thy stature" In the same way by lofty and eloquent speeches with perorations at the close or with rhetorical beginnings, we are not going to increase our production. Nor are we going to do better in this direction by consuming more of the Punalur paper for issuing circulars or appeals. I am sometimes inclined to be perhaps a little incharitable and doubt if Government were not talking with their tongue in their cheek when they talk about production. For I do not find any systematic attempts made for the enhancement of paddy production or of the production of any other food crop. How could we expect more by way of production when the Agricultural Director is saddled with the responsibilities of other Departments, when you depute him daily to Delhi or to Simla and to other provincial centres to attend this Conference or that, to serve on Select Committees and other Committees. I do not mean any disparagement to the Director. He is a very qualified and able man, a very distinguished Chemist and he has got abundant courage to bear the responsibilities of all these Departments. But Government seem not to make use of his services in the manner that ought to be done. In this connection, I am tempted to say that the Land Revenue Department can also do a great deal. But at present I do not expect them to do anything in this direction, because that is a department in which the officers are over-worked. Incidentally, I may say that last time my remarks about this department were misquoted I do not congratulate the Government for the abolition of the Land

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Revenue Commissioner's post. The activities of the different Peishkars can be more effectively co-ordinated and unified if there is some such officer as Head of a Department. But the Government by some reason or other has taken upon themselves the responsibilities of the administration of the Land Revenue Department. I do not think that it was a very wise step.

My friend Mr. Kuruvilla also referred to the necessity of utilising the forest lands for cultivation. As usual, I am a little jealous in the matter of the conservation of our forests. But if cultivation could be done consistently with the conservation of forests ought to be considered by Government. But Government may be pleased to bear in mind the case of the people of our coastal area when any such concession is made. I find there are in the State organised—I was about to say gangs and it is a very unparliamentary word—an organised body of people who out of pretended love for the country are offering enhanced production of paddy if some concessions are made to them in the matter of registry of Forest Reserves.

Government should not fall into any such trap. They must establish an impartial agency which should make available the forest lands if at all they do so, to such of the poor people as would really cultivate them themselves. On that basis, a man should not be given on account more than 5 acres of land for cultivation. With these words, I dot not know whether I am congratulating the Financial Secretary on his Budget for 1118.

Mr. T. Mahomed Ismail : Sir, on a point of order. Since the speeches were made by some honourable members without any time-limit and as there are many more honourable members who desire to participate in this discussion, I would suggest that some time-limit may be observed hereafter at least for speeches. I may also observe that as was done during previous occasions, names of honourable members who wish to speak may be placed before the President.

President : I hope honourable members will kindly agree now that the time being 2-15 p. m., to speak for not more than 5 to 7 minutes each.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar : Sir, I congratulate the Financial Secretary for the very clear way in which he has presented the Budget for 1118 before the House. The year 1117 is expected to close with a revenue surplus of Rs. 24·32 lakhs. This amount is proposed to be ear-marked for transfer to the Reserve Fund. Inclusive of Rs. 8·9 lakhs which formed the original Reserve Fund, the total amount to the credit of Reserve Fund comes to Rs. 32·41 lakhs. As has been correctly pointed out by the Financial Secretary, this Fund has been constituted with a view to

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meet the difficulties that may arise at any time by way of fall in revenue. The anticipated revenue for 1117 was only Rs. 280·73 lakhs. But it is expected that the actual revenue would amount up to Rs. 301·41 lakhs *i. e.*, Rs. 20·68 lakhs more than the original estimate. Sir, the Dewan-President when he addressed this House the other day said that the profit from the Rubber Factory during the past year was Rs. 5 lakhs and it is expected that the profits for the coming year would amount to Rs. 7 lakhs. Therefore, my submission is that a proportion of this amount and similar huge amounts that may be given as profits to Government have also to be added on to this Rs. 301·41 lakhs. So, the revenue must certainly be much above this figure. The Budget for 1118 has been prepared on the assumption that the present state of things will continue to be more or less what it is now. The Financial Secretary says that he has deliberately under-estimated the revenue and expects a total revenue of Rs. 290·22 lakhs, even though he concedes that he will be justified in budgeting for a revenue of nearly 3 crores of rupees. It could be seen from the budget balances of the past years and from the fact that we have at our disposal a sum of Rs. 32·41 lakhs as Reserve Fund that there is no justification for imposing the additional cess of 8 annas per cwt. from 1-1-1118 on rubber. The Financial Secretary's opinion that the rubber industry has, of late, begun to pass through a period of notable prosperity is in my opinion not quite correct. It has to be borne in mind that rubber was being sold in the Ceylon market at Re. 1 per lb. till a few years back and before that for a little over Rs. 3 per lb. When we compare the prices that ruled in the market once with those obtaining now, we must say that the rubber producers here are in no way able to bear the additional cess that is now sought to be imposed by Government from 1-1-1118.

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan : Does the honourable member know the export duty on rubber in Ceylon ?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar : I do not know.

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan : I may inform the honourable member that the duty is more than Rs. 3.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar : I accept that information. But, the expenses for producing rubber have gone high : a good proportion of the amount obtained by the sale of rubber has to go towards the cost of production and the net income obtained is not at all appreciable. Sir, just after the last war I may say that rubber was being sold at a loss. I had occasion to send rubber to Colombo and other places for sale. I entrusted a certain quantity of rubber to Messrs. Pierce Leslie and Co. agents at Colombo for sale. Not only that I did not get anything for my rubber but also on the final settlement of accounts I had to pay something more

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[Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar.]

out of my pocket as commission to the company. The price was so low. We did not ask Government for any concession at that time. We suffered our losses. Now when the price has gone up to 8 annas for lb or so, the Government are not at all justified in imposing an additional cess as is proposed to be imposed from the commencement of next year. Not only that. This state of affairs in the rubber market is an uncertain thing. Within one or two months, suppose peace is concluded. What then will be the condition of the rubber producer? When rubber comes in from various quarters, where will the rubber producer in Travancore be? Prices will come down very low. Therefore, let us wait and see if there is any necessity for the imposition of a duty on rubber. I have already said that we have surplus funds in our hands for lean years. That being so, there is absolutely no necessity for imposing any additional cess. Even if we find that there are extraordinary expenses to be incurred, why not we wait and see the exact nature of it. Let us watch whether the rubber producer is really going to get any higher income. Therefore, my humble submission is that the revenue that is hoped to be secured on that score should be deducted from the anticipated revenue for the next year.

Next, I want to say about the crude oil. My friend Mr. Krishna Aiyar had referred to that. I shall relate my experience from the happenings of last year. I had moved an adjournment motion in this House regarding the supply of crude oil to the agriculturists. Government promised that they would do all arrangements necessary for ensuring a good supply of oil at any time. I know that Mr. Unnithan, Excise Commissioner, had been to Alleppey. He took the trouble of going over to each and every agent engaged in the supply of crude oil. I also took the trouble of meeting the agents and exerting my influence to see that the ryots get the supply in time. With all these efforts, it is very sad for me to say that the ryots did not get the crude oil at the proper time. I am aware that the Government are making arrangements to procure adequate quantities of oil at the proper time for the agriculturists. But I doubt very much whether Government will be able to supply that at the proper time. My suggestion in this connection is this. Government should take over possession of the crude oil early enough and distribute the same to the proper agencies for supplying to the ryots. Then alone, could the agriculturists get the oil in time. There are go-downs at Alleppey and also two big tanks for storing it. Instead of keeping the oil at Cochin or some other place, if the oil is stored at Alleppey, the ryots could go there and get it at the proper time. It is better to keep that oil within Travancore itself at the present time.

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Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe : സർ, ഈ നാട്ടിന്റെ ദുരിതത്തെപ്പറ്റി യാതൊന്നും അറിവില്ലാ എന്ന തോന്നുമാറാണ് ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി ദുരിതനിവാരണത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ഇത്തവണത്തെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ തുച്ഛമായ ഒരു തുകയാണ് കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. എന്തെല്ലാം പദ്ധതികൾ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുവാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചാലും ജനങ്ങളുടെ സുഖത്തെപ്പറ്റിയാണ് ഗവണ്മെൻറു ആദ്യമായി ചിന്തിക്കേണ്ടതു്. അനേകായിരം ജനങ്ങൾ ഈ നാട്ടിൽ ദുരിതമനുഭവിക്കുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ദുരിതനിവാരണത്തിനുവേണ്ടി കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലത്തെക്കാൾ കുറവായൊരു സംഖ്യ നീക്കിവച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു് പിശകായിപ്പോയി എന്നാണു എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. ഈ വകയ്ക്കു പണമില്ലാത്തപക്ഷം ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും നടപ്പാക്കാനുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന വലിയ പദ്ധതികൾ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നാണ് എനിക്കു പറവാനുള്ളതു്. റബ്ബർ, തേയില ഇവയ്ക്കു കുറേ കൂടുതൽ ഡ്യൂട്ടി ചുമത്തിയാലും തരക്കേടില്ല. കുറേ വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം ഒന്നു കുറയ്ക്കുചെയ്തു് ആ തുകയും ദുരിതനിവാരണത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ചെലവാക്കണം. ഇപ്പോൾ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ പടിവാതുക്കൽ എത്തിയിരിക്കുന്ന. എന്തെല്ലാം പരിവർത്തനങ്ങളാണ് ഉണ്ടാകുവാൻ പോകുന്നതെന്നു നാം ചിന്തിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. വലിയ ദിവാൻജി എന്നു് മുമ്പു ഞാൻ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതായ ആ ദേഹം ഈ രാജ്യം വിട്ടു് തൽക്കാലത്തേക്കെങ്കിലും പോകുമെന്നു് ആരും ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിരുന്നില്ല. അദ്ദേഹത്തിനുപോലും രാജ്യംവിട്ടു പോകേണ്ടതായിവന്നു. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നമ്മുടെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ ഇന്നുകാലത്തു് പ്രസ്താവിച്ച ഒരു കാര്യം നമ്മുടെ ഏവരുടേയും പ്രധാന ചിന്തയ്ക്കു വിഷയീഭവിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. അതായതു് സകല ജനങ്ങളും ഒത്തൊരുമിച്ചു് രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഭരണകാര്യത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ശ്രമിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതുതന്നെ. അതു് സകല ആളുകളുടേയും മനസ്സിനെ സ്പർശിക്കത്തക്ക ഒരു നിർദ്ദേശമാണു്. ആ പ്രസ്താവനയെ ഞാൻ പൂർണ്ണഹൃദയം സ്വാഗതം ചെയ്തുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഇവിടെ ജനങ്ങൾ തമ്മിലുള്ള യോജിപ്പില്ലായ്മയ്ക്കു പ്രധാനമായ കാരണം ഉദ്യോഗവഴക്കാണു്. സാധാരണയായി ഒരു ദിവാൻജിവന്നാൽ ജനങ്ങൾ നോക്കാറുള്ളതു്, നായർക്കാണോ, ക്രിസ്ത്യാനിക്കാണോ, മുസ്ലീമിനാണോ അതോ ഈഴവർക്കാണോ കൂടുതൽ ഉദ്യോഗം കൊടുക്കുന്നതു് എന്നാണു്. ഏതു സമുദായക്കാർക്കാണോ കൂടുതൽ ഉദ്യോഗം കൊടുക്കുന്നതു അവരുടെ ഭാഗത്താണു് ദിവാൻജി നില്ക്കുന്നതു എന്നു് അഭിപ്രായം പറയുകയും ചെയ്യും. ഇത്തരത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ശ്രദ്ധ ഉദ്യോഗകാര്യത്തിലാണു് പ്രധാനമായി കേന്ദ്രീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈയുള്ള പരിതഃസ്ഥിതിയിലെങ്കിലും ഈ ഉദ്യോഗവഴക്കു നിറുത്തണമെന്നാണു് അപേക്ഷ. ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗത്തിന് യോഗ്യതയുള്ള നാലു

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[Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe]

പേർ അപേക്ഷിക്കുമ്പോൾ അവരുടെ പേരുകൾ എഴുതി നറുക്കിട്ടെടുത്തു വരുന്ന പേരുകാരനു ആ ഉദ്യോഗം കൊടുത്താലും തരക്കേടില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെയായാൽ പക്ഷപാതം കാണിച്ചു എന്നുള്ള വഴക്കുണ്ടാകയില്ല. ഈ ഉദ്യോഗവഴക്ക് ഒന്നു ശമിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനായി പല ആളുകളും നാലഞ്ചു വർഷമായി ശ്രമിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണു്. എന്നാൽ ഇന്നുവരെ അതിനു് ഒരു ശാന്തതയും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. ഇതിലേയ്ക്കു് ഒരു സമാധാനം, ഇങ്ങനെ സരിച്ചു് ചെയ്യുമാറുകയാണെങ്കിൽ, ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നാണു് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. ഇവിടത്തെ കൃഷി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു് അടുത്ത വർഷത്തിൽ പറയത്തക്ക പ്രവൃത്തികൾ ഒന്നും തന്നെ ചെയ്യാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതായി കാണുന്നില്ല. മി: കെ. കെ. കുരുവിള പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതുപോലെ പതിനാറു വളഡിപ്പോകൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതാണു് ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു് ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനമായി ചെയ്യാനിരിക്കുന്നതായി ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം, ഇവിടത്തെ ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങൾ വെളിയിൽനിന്നും കൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ സാധിക്കാത്ത ഈ ഘട്ടത്തിൽ, വിളവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാമെന്നു് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഗവണ്മെന്റു ഈ പരിതസ്ഥിതിയിൽ സകല ശക്തികളും പ്രയോഗിച്ചു വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്യണം. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ അവസാനത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റിനും ജനങ്ങൾക്കും വൈഷമ്യങ്ങൾ നേരിടും. ഇവിടത്തെ അവശ്യത്തിനുവേണ്ടി വെളിയിൽനിന്നും ധാരാളം അരി കൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റു ഏർപ്പാടു ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ സന്തോഷിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ നമുക്കു അതു പരിപൂർണ്ണമായി വിശ്വസിക്കാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ടിനു വല്ല അസൗകര്യവും നേരിട്ടാൽ അരി നാം ഇവിടെ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതെങ്ങനെ? എനിക്കു് ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ പറയുവാനുള്ളതു് ധാരാളമായി ഭൂമികൾ സാധുക്കൾക്കു് പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. കുത്തകപ്പാട്ടമായി കൊടുത്താലും മതി. ആഹാരസാധനം നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിൽ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി, അഞ്ചുലക്ഷം ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലമെങ്കിലും റിസർവ്വു വനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ഒഴിപ്പിച്ചു പലർക്കുമായി കുത്തകപ്പാട്ടത്തിനു കൊടുക്കണം. വനത്തിലുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ഇപ്രകാരം ഒഴിച്ചെടുത്താൽ രാജ്യം നശിച്ചുപോകുമെന്നു ചിലർ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടേയ്ക്കാം. ഭക്ഷണസാധനം ഇല്ലെങ്കിൽ ആണു രാജ്യം നശിച്ചുപോകാൻ ഇടയുള്ളതെന്നാണു് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. തരിശുഭൂമികളിൽമാത്രം കൃഷി ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടു് വിളവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാമെന്നു് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഇഞ്ചിപ്പുല്ലു് മുതലായ ചെടികൾ കൃഷിചെയ്തു വളം നശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തരിശുഭൂമികൾ കൃഷിചെയ്തതുകൊണ്ടു് യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവുമുണ്ടാകയില്ല. കൂടാതെ പല പദ്ധതികൾകൊണ്ടും നെല്ലു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാമെ

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ന്ന ഗവണ്മെൻറു നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചുകാണുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അതു ഫ ഫ ഫ വ്യ-ലോ, ഫ ഫ ഫൻ-ലോ അതോ നാലുകൊല്ലത്തിനകം തന്നെയോ സാധിക്കുകയില്ലാ എന്നാണ് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. അതു ശരിയായി നടപ്പിൽ വരണമെങ്കിൽ കാലതാമസം ഉണ്ട്. ഇന്നത്തെ ആവശ്യത്തിന്, അനേകലക്ഷം അളുകൾ പട്ടിണികിടന്നു മരിക്കാതെ ഇരിക്കണമെങ്കിൽ, ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ ധാരാളമായി റിസർവ്വ് വനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ഭൂമികൾ കൃഷിക്കായി വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കണം. അതു് ഒട്ടും കാലതാമസം കൂടാതെ ഉടനടി ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നു് ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. എനിക്കു ഒരു കാര്യംകൂടി ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ധരിപ്പിക്കുവാനുണ്ടു്. അതായതു് ചുരുങ്ങിയ ശമ്പളക്കാരുടെ ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടണമെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. . വ്യ രൂപാ, ഫ ൦ രൂപാ ഇങ്ങനെശമ്പളം വാങ്ങുന്ന സാധുക്കളെ ഈ നാട്ടിൽ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു് പാപകരമാണു്. നാട്ടിനു് ദൈവാനുഗ്രഹം വേണമെങ്കിൽ തീർച്ചയായിട്ടും ഇവരുടെ ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കണം. ഇപ്രകാരം തുച്ഛമായ ശമ്പളം വാങ്ങുന്നവർ ഒരു ചാക്കു് അരിക്കു ഫ വ്യ-൦, ൨ ൦-൦, രൂപാ വിലയുള്ളപ്പോൾ എന്തുചെയ്യുമെന്നു് ഗവണ്മെൻറു ചിന്തിക്കണം. ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു് എനിക്കു് ഏറ്റവും കൃതജ്ഞതയായി ഉൽബോധിപ്പിക്കുവാനുള്ളതു് ഈ താണശമ്പളക്കാരുടെ ദയനീയസ്ഥിതിയെപ്പറ്റിയാണു്.

Mr. T. W. U. Park : Sir, I do not congratulate the Financial Secretary so much on the lucid way in which he has presented the Budget as on his good fortune in being able not only to intimate a handsome surplus in the current year but also to present a nicely balanced Budget for the new year without having recourse to extremely heavy taxation.

At some stage during the year, I imagine the Financial Secretary saw opening up before him the very pleasing prospect of being able, in the role of financial conjuror, to produce a very useful surplus rabbit or two from the Treasury top hat. Imagine his surprise, almost dismay, when out popped 24 such rabbits in the form of 24 lakhs of rupees surplus. I think the Financial Secretary could not have been aware of the notorious fecundity of rabbits. Happily and wisely, he takes no such pehnomenon into account in his Budget figures for 1118. The honourable member has rightly drawn attention to the Government achievements in the matter of development, social measures and nation building activities. He also takes credit for the careful husbanding of resources but omits to mention that these resources orginally belonged to other people—the taxpayer. I think that some credit is due to the general body of taxpayers who after all are the financial backbone of the country. Perhaps in future some tribute might lie in that direction.

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[Mr. T. W. U. Park]

Last year it was my privilege from my place here to assure Government that Estates were as eager as any one else, and more eager than some, to contribute their fair quota to the common war effort. I still stand by that. On that occasion, however, I expressed my apprehension concerning the imposition of new export duties and the enhancement of others. The apprehension was based mainly on the absence of any assurance that these duties would be removed as soon as possible and I join with the other honourable members who have begged for a similar assurance. Taking into account the satisfactory results of the current year I do not think the Financial Secretary has made out a very strong case for fresh imposition on the Rubber Industry. He mentions the allevation of distress but I do not think it wise to allocate, even by implication, any particular source of revenue for any particular purpose. This practice might lead to unhappy comparisons being made and is to be deprecated. I suggest that in future only the very broadest balancing of revenue against expenditure should be permitted.

With regard to the New Planting of Rubber and the rules which have been published if rubber is regarded as the goose which lays the Golden egg, why confine it in future in pens of 100 acres or less in the case of each owner? I think the feeling in the country, and particularly among the smaller holders, is in favour of unrestricted planting. This will be a great encouragement in the formation of small companies from whom the Government could expect to derive some revenue later on.

Coming now the State Transport, a subject on which I do not generally speak, I think that sympathy is due to the Department and to Government when rising costs prevent the realisation of anticipated revenue. At the same time there is a feature of the 1116 account which calls for notice. The revised estimate for that year showed an anticipated profit of over Rs. 63,000 whereas actually a loss of Rs. 38,000 was incurred. Between the preparation of the revised estimate and the close of the financial year there was a variation of over 1 lakh of rupees in the short space of two months. Anyhow that is past history. This year the Department expects a yield of Rs. 1,50,000—I trust this will materialise.

The only other subject on which I would like to deal for a moment is food production. Estates are particularly interested in this subject far apart from a desire to respond gladly to appeal from Government for increased food supplies, self interest alone would make us wish to augment the food supply for the many thousands of labourers employed by us. But I would conclude with a word of warning and an appeal. The warning is in regard to soil erosion. When new areas are being opened up under tapioca or other food products especially in hilly areas every effort

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should be made by the Agricultural Department to see that such areas are opened up in accordance with scientific methods in order to prevent soil erosion or slow down the process. After all the soil is, this country's most precious asset. My appeal relates to Elephant Damage. I understand that the Government have appointed a Committee to consider ways and means of preventing elephant damage. One small herd, or one elephant even, can destroy in a night all the work and effort on food production. I trust therefore that satisfactory proposals for combating this menace will emerge very soon.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : സർ, മനുഷ്യർക്ക് ഏറ്റവും പ്രാഥമികാവശ്യങ്ങളായ രണ്ടു സംഗതികളെക്കുറിച്ച് ആദ്യമായി പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ട് മറ്റുകാര്യങ്ങൾ പരാമർശിക്കാം.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : I rise to a point of order. I want to know whether a member can speak both in Malayalam and in English at the same day.

President : The rule has not been very rigidly enforced here. It is left to the discretion of the member concerned.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന രീതി വിശദമായും എന്നാൽ സംക്ഷിപ്തമായും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതൊഴിച്ചാൽ അതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ച് അത്രവളരെ സ്തുത്യർഹമായിട്ട് ഞാൻ ഒന്നും കാണുന്നില്ല. ദുരിതനിവാരണത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ഒരു ലക്ഷംരൂപാ നീക്കിവച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. പിന്നീട് മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലേക്കുള്ള ചില പുതിയ നിയമനങ്ങളും ഒഴിച്ചാൽ വളരെ ഒന്നും സ്തുത്യർഹമായിട്ട് കാണാത്തതിൽ ഞാൻ നിരാശപ്പെടുകയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ പ്രധാന കാര്യം അതല്ലല്ലോ. പ്രാഥമികാവശ്യങ്ങൾ എന്നുവച്ചാൽ ഉണ്ണാനും ഉടുക്കാനും എന്നീ രണ്ടു കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കു ശരിയായ നിവാരണം ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ മാത്രമേ ഏതുരാജ്യത്തും സമാധാനം നിലനിൽക്കുകയുള്ളു എന്നാണ് ഞാൻ മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഞാൻ ഈ സഭയിൽ അംഗമായി വന്നതുമുതൽ ഇന്നുവരെയും ഈ പ്രശ്നത്തിന്റെ പ്രാഥമ്യത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് എപ്പോഴും പ്രതിപാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. യുദ്ധം തുടങ്ങുന്നതിനുമുമ്പിൽ, ഇന്നത്തെ അസൗകര്യങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതിനുമുമ്പും എപ്പോഴും നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു സ്വയം പര്യാപ്തത ഇക്കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം നിമിത്തം ഞാൻ ഒരു പഴഞ്ചനാണെന്നുകൂടി ഗവണ്മെൻറുപക്ഷത്തുനിന്നും പറയുന്നതിന് ഇടയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. I was looked upon as an anachronism.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : He is offensively bi-lingual, Sir. (*Laughter*)

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Mr. K. M. Kesavan: നമ്മുടെരാജ്യത്ത് ഇന്നുള്ള എല്ലാജനങ്ങൾക്കും ആവശ്യമായ ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു് ഉള്ള കഴിവും അതിന് സ്ഥലവും എല്ലാം ഉണ്ടെന്നാണ് എന്റെ പൂർണ്ണമായ വിശ്വാസം. വർഷപാതത്തിന് തകരാറൊന്നും നേരിടാതെ എത്ര മാത്രം സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ കുന്നിൻ പുറങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്താമോ അത്രയും അവിടെനിന്നും, വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംകൊണ്ട് നാട്ടിന് ഉപദ്രവം വരാത്തനിലയിലും ജലമാർഗ്ഗമായിട്ടുള്ള സഞ്ചാരങ്ങൾക്ക് തടസ്സംവരാത്തവിധത്തിലും ഏതെല്ലാം കായലുകൾ നിലങ്ങളായിട്ട് മാറ്റാൻ കഴിയുമോ അത്രയും കായലുകളിൽ നിന്നും വേണ്ടസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ നെൽക്കൃഷിക്ക് ഉപയോഗിക്കയാണെന്നുവരികിൽ ഈ കുറവ് നിശ്ചയമായിട്ടും പരിഹരിക്കപ്പെടുമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നത്. കായംകുളത്തു കായൽ ഇരുപതുചതുരശ്രമൈലിൽ കുറയാത്ത വിസ്തീർണ്ണമുള്ള ഒരു കായലാണ്. ശരാശരി ഈ കായലിന്റെ ആഴം അഞ്ചടി മാത്രമാണ്. പതിമ്മൂവായിരം ഏക്കർ വിസ്തീർണ്ണംവരുന്ന ഈ ജലവിഭാഗം ഞാൻ മുമ്പു പറഞ്ഞവിധത്തിലുള്ള കരുതലോടുകൂടി കൃഷിനിലങ്ങളായിട്ട് മാറുന്ന പക്ഷം ഒരേക്കർ ഒന്നിന ഫ ൦ ൦ പറ നെല്ലുവീതം എന്ന കുറഞ്ഞ തോതുവച്ചു കണക്കാക്കിയാലും ഫന ലക്ഷം പറ നെല്ല് അവിടെ വിളയിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കും.

Mr. Easuara Pillai: കായൽ മുഴുവൻ നിലമാക്കിക്കളഞ്ഞാൽ സഞ്ചാരത്തിന തടസ്സമുണ്ടാകയില്ലയോ?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു് ഇത്തരത്തിലുള്ള അസൗകര്യങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകാത്തവിധത്തിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കണമെന്നാണ്.

Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe: അതിലേക്ക് എന്തു നിവാരണം ചെയ്യണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: അതു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു മെംബർ കേട്ടില്ല. കായംകുളം രാജാവിന്റെ കാലത്തു ഈ കായൽ കൃഷിനിലങ്ങളായിരുന്നു എന്നും അക്രമികളെഭയന്നു കടലിൽനിന്നും ഒരു അഴി വെട്ടിയുണ്ടാക്കി വെള്ളംകയറ്റി, ഹോളൻകാർ മുൻപു ചെയ്തുപോലെ, കായലാക്കിത്തീർത്തതായും ഒരു കഥതന്നെയുണ്ട്. അവിടെയുള്ള മണ്ണു പരിശോധിച്ചാലും നെൽകൃഷിക്കു വളരെ പറ്റിയതാണെന്നു് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു. ഈ സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെന്റു വളരെ കായ്മയായി ചിന്തിക്കാനുള്ളതാണ്. നമ്മുടെനാട്ടിൽ ഇന്നുതന്നെ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങളിൽ ചിലവ ഒരു വലിയതോതിൽ അന്യനാട്ടിലേക്കു പോകുന്നു. ഉന്നാമതായിത്തന്നെ അനവധി മത്സ്യം ഇവിടെനിന്നും അന്യനാട്ടി

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ലേക്ക കയറ്റി അയയ്ക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. നമുക്കുതന്നെ ഇവിടെ മതിയാകാതിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഈ മത്സ്യം അന്യനാട്ടിലേക്ക കയറ്റി അയയ്ക്കുന്നത് വളരെ കഷ്ടമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു പ്രവർത്തിയാണ്. അതുപോലെതന്നെ പല വിധത്തിലുള്ള പഴങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെ ധാരാളം ഉണ്ട്. പക്ഷേ അത് മുഴുവൻ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതിന് നാം സൂക്ഷിച്ചുവയ്ക്കാതെ കുറെയെല്ലാം ഉപയോഗിച്ചിട്ട് ബാക്കിയുള്ളത് ദൂരത്തെറിഞ്ഞു ഉപയോഗമില്ലാതാക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ചുമതലവഹിക്കുന്ന ഊർജസ്വലനായ ഡയറക്ടർ അവർകൾ ഈ കാര്യങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു വളരെ ജോലിചെയ്യുന്നതായിട്ടും, വളരെ തീഷ്ണമായി ചിന്തിക്കുന്നതായിട്ടും, ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോട് ഇതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ച് പല നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളും ചെയ്യുന്നതായിട്ടും ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാലും കൃഷിയെ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് മതിയായ രീതിയിൽ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടപണം ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്ക് അനുവദിച്ചുകാണാത്തതിൽ ഞാൻ വ്യസനിക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. കൃഷിക്ക് അത്യാവശ്യമായ വളം വേണ്ടപോലെ ലഭിക്കുന്നില്ല. എങ്കിലും കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ സൗകര്യത്തിനു വേണ്ടി പതിനാറ് വളംഡിപ്പോകൾ പുതുതായിട്ട് സ്ഥാപിച്ച് ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വിളവിന്റെ ജാമ്യത്തിന്മേൽ വളം കടം കൊടുത്തുതുടങ്ങിയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളത് വളരെ ആശ്വാസകരമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഈ ഏഴു ഡിപ്പോകൾകൊണ്ടു മാത്രം മതിയാകയില്ല. കൊടുക്കുന്ന വളത്തിന്റെ അളവും വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കണം. ഈ വിധത്തിൽ ഇതു് ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് വേണ്ടതു പ്രയോജനപ്രദമാക്കിത്തീർക്കുന്നതിനു് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

ഇനി തുടർന്നു പറയാനുള്ളതു് സഹകരണവകുപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ്. ഈ വകുപ്പു പ്രത്യേക ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്റെ ചുമതലയിലല്ലെന്നുവരികിലും ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനോട് ഈ വകുപ്പിനെ സംഘടിപ്പിക്കാമെന്നു വരികിൽ അതു് കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനോടാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞേതീരു. അങ്ങിനെയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതും. ഇവിടത്തെ സഹകരണസംഘത്തിൽ ഉള്ള കുഴപ്പങ്ങൾ കഴിഞ്ഞ സഹകരണകാൺഫറൻസിൽ ഇവിടെവച്ചു ആലോചിക്കുകയും വേണ്ട നിശ്ചയങ്ങൾ പാസ്സാക്കി ഗവണ്മെൻറിലേക്ക് അയക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിൽ പിന്നീട് സഹകരണവകുപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ആലോചിക്കുന്നതിന് ഒരു ഉപദേശകസമിതിയേയും നിയമിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ആ ഉപദേശകസമിതി നല്ലവണ്ണം ആലോചിച്ച് ഒരു റിപ്പോർട്ട് സമർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്,

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[Mr. K. M. Kesavan.]

ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ഇപ്പോഠം പണം കുറവുള്ള സഹകരണസംഘങ്ങഠംക്കു ധനസഹായം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനായി ഒരുലക്ഷം രൂപാ സെൻട്രൽ ബാങ്കിന് കടം കൊടുക്കാമെന്നാണ് നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഇതിലേക്കു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു വളരെ നന്ദിപ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കുന്നു എന്നു വരികിലും ഇതുകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം ഈ സഹകരണവകുപ്പു നന്നാകുമെന്നു പറയാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. ഈ വകുപ്പിൽ അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ള മറ്റു പല കാര്യങ്ങളും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്. ഏതു സംഘങ്ങളിൽ ചെന്നുനോക്കിയാലും അദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ, സെക്രട്ടറി, കമ്മിറ്റിമെമ്പറന്മാർ ഇവരെല്ലാം സ്വന്തക്കാരോ, സ്നേഹിതന്മാരോ, ഒരേവർഗ്ഗത്തിൽപ്പെട്ടവരോ ആയിരിക്കും. സെക്രട്ടറിക്കു ഒരുകാലത്തും പ്രസിഡൻറുമായി യാതൊരുചാഞ്ചല്യവും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കാൻ പാടില്ല. ഈ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിന് ഒരു ചെറിയ തുകയെങ്കിലും ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കണം. അതല്ലെങ്കിൽ സ്വന്തം ചിലവിനുവേണ്ടിയുള്ള മറേറതെങ്കിലും ആനേപഷിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സമയത്തിനു പുറമേ മാത്രമേ സംഘത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ജോലിചെയ്യുവാൻ അയാൾക്കു സാധിക്കയുള്ളൂ. ഒരു ചെറിയ ശമ്പളമെങ്കിലുമുണ്ടായിരുന്നാൽ എന്തുകൊണ്ട് നിങ്ങൾ സംഘത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ജോലിചെയ്തില്ല എന്നു ചോദിക്കാൻ സൗകര്യമുണ്ടാകും. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസയോഗ്യതയും പരിശീലനവും ഉള്ള യൂണിയൻ സെക്രട്ടറിമാരെയും മറും സൂപ്രവൈസറന്മാരായും ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരായും ഗവണ്മെൻറു സർവ്വീസിൽ നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇക്കാര്യം ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ആലോചനയിൽ ഇരിക്കുകയാണ്. അത് ഏതുനിലയിലിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതിനെക്കുറിച്ചു എനിക്ക് അറിവാൻ വളരെ ഉൽക്കണ്ഠയുണ്ട്.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനെക്കുറിച്ചും രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി, സ്കൂൾഫൈനൽ പരീക്ഷാഫലം വളരെ മോശമായിരുന്നുഎന്നും വിജയത്തിൻെറ ശതമാനം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിന് ഗവണ്മെൻറു കാരുണ്യപൂർവ്വം എന്തെങ്കിലും ചെയ്യണമെന്നും ഗവണ്മെൻറുഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും ഇതിനുമുൻപ് ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുണ്ടായ മറുപടിയെ ഓർത്തുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെയാണ് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നത്. "വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞതരത്തിലുള്ള തലച്ചോറിനു ഉയർന്തരത്തിലുള്ള വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തെ ശ്രമിക്കുമ്പോൾ വരാവുന്ന മാനസികമായ—ബുദ്ധിഹീനമായ—നയത്തോടു" എന്ന ഉദ്ദേശം ആയിരുന്ന അതിൽ അന്തർഭവിച്ചിരുന്നത്. എന്നാൽ ഉപരിവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനു അങ്ങനെ മോശ

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പ്പെട്ടവരെ കടത്തിവിടുന്നതിനു മാത്രമായിട്ട് ഇങ്ങനെ അവരുടെ വിജയത്തിന്റെ തോതു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നല്ല ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. ഇന്നു മിക്കവാറും ഏതു തുറയിൽചെന്നാലും സ്ക്രീനിംഗ് സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റെങ്കിലും വേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടു് കാളേജിന്റെ ഞെരുക്കം കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനും, എന്നാൽ മറേറതെങ്കിലും മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിനും പയ്യാപ്പുമായവിധത്തിൽ യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റിയും എഡ്യൂക്കേഷൻ വകുപ്പും ചേർന്ന് ചില വിട്ടുവീഴ്ചകൾ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണെന്നു നിവേദനം ചെയ്യാതിരിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. കാളേജിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കുന്നതിന് ൪൭ ശതമാനമെന്നോ, ൪൦ ശതമാനമെന്നോ ഒരു തോതു നിശ്ചയിക്കുകയും, മറു ജീവിതമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽ ഏർപ്പെടുന്നതിന് ൩൫ ശതമാനം മതിയെന്നോമറെറാ ഒരു വ്യവസ്ഥചെയ്യുകയും ചെയ്ത് ഒരു രക്ഷാമാർഗ്ഗം ഉണ്ടാക്കിയില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഇയ്യാണ്ടിൽ ഉണ്ടായ പ്രക്ഷോഭണത്തെക്കാൾ വളരെ വിപുലമായതോതിൽ പ്രക്ഷോഭണത്തിനു ഇടയാകുമെന്നുള്ളതു് ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു് ഒരു മുന്നറിയിപ്പു നൽകികൊള്ളട്ടെ. പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവ്വീസിൽ സമുദായപ്രാതിനിദ്ധ്യത്തെക്കുറിച്ചു് വാദിക്കുന്നതിനു സാധാരണതാൽപര്യമുള്ള ഒരാളല്ല ഞാൻ. എങ്കിലും എല്ലാസമുദായക്കാരും വളരെയോജിപ്പോടുകൂടി നടക്കുന്നതിന് സമുദായക്കാർക്കു സങ്കടത്തിനിടവരുത്താതെ ഓരോ സമുദായത്തിനും ന്യായമായ് അനുപാതം അനുവദിക്കാതിരുന്നാൽ ചില സമുദായക്കാർക്ക് അതു് സങ്കടകരമായിത്തീരും. ഉദാഹരണമായ് രണ്ടു കാര്യം എടുത്തുപറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ വകുപ്പിൽ എന്റെ സമുദായത്തിൽനിന്ന് കഴിഞ്ഞ മൂന്നുകൊല്ലത്തിനിപ്പുറം ഒരു സബ്രജിസ്ട്രാരെ എങ്കിലും നിയമിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നാണ് അറിയുന്നതു്. പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവീസു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു് സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്; ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ഉപദേശപ്രകാരം ഒരാളെയും ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ഉണ്ടായതിൽപിന്നീടു് സബ്രജിസ്ട്രാറായി നിയമിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നാണ് അറിയുന്നതു്. ഇതിന്റെ കാരണം എന്തുതന്നെ ആയിരുന്നാലും വളരെ ദുസ്സഹമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഒരു സങ്കടം വളരെ പ്രകടമായനിലയിൽ ഒരു വർഗ്ഗക്കാർക്കു് വന്നുചേരുമ്പോൾ അതിന്റെ ന്യായമായിട്ടുള്ള നിലയെ പരിഗണിച്ചു്, ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നു് നേരിട്ടു് ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സങ്കടങ്ങൾക്കു് പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്ന് ഞാൻ വളരെ വിനീതമായി അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. ഇതുപോലെതന്നെയാണു സെക്രട്ടറിയേറ്റിലേയും അവസ്ഥ.

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Mr. M. Sultan Muhiadheen : സർ, തിരുവിതാംകൂർ എന്നു മാത്രമല്ല ലോകം മുഴുവനും ഒരു പരിവർത്തനഘട്ടത്തിൽ എത്തിച്ചേർന്നിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ അത്യാവശ്യമായ ചിലവുകൾ കുറയ്ക്കാതെയും ക്രൂതൽ നികുതിഭാരം ചുമത്താതെയും, എന്നിട്ടും മിച്ചമുള്ള ഒരു ബഡ്ജറ്റ് അവതരിപ്പിച്ചതിൽ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറിയെ ഞാൻ അഭിനന്ദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. സർ, താഴ്ന്നതരം ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് പബ്ലിക്കുസർവീസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ നിയമനത്തിനുശേഷം മുസ്ലീങ്ങൾക്കു വലിയ പരാതിക്ക് അവകാശമില്ലെങ്കിലും ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും നേരിട്ടനടത്തുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഞങ്ങളുടെ അവകാശം തീരെ അവഗണിക്കപ്പെടുന്നു എന്ന് ഇവിടെ വ്യസനസമേതം പറയാതിരിക്കാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. കഴിഞ്ഞ രണ്ടുമൂന്നു കൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കിടയിൽ ബാറിൽനിന്നും കുറെ മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടന്മാരെ നിയമിച്ചു, എങ്കിലും അതിലേക്ക് മുസ്ലീങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും യോഗ്യതയുള്ള പലരും അപേക്ഷകന്മാരായി ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നിട്ടും യാതൊരു മുസ്ലീമിനേയും അപ്രകാരം നിയമിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നു എനിക്കു ധൈര്യസമേതം പറയുവാൻ കഴിയും. എന്നാൽ മുസ്ലീങ്ങളുടെയിടയിൽ യോഗ്യതയും കാര്യക്ഷമതയുമുള്ള അപേക്ഷകന്മാർ ഇല്ലായിരുന്നു എന്നു പറയുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ ബലമായ വിശ്വാസം. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ക്ലാസ്സ് ഒന്നിൽ ഒരു മുസ്ലീമിനെ മൻസിഫായിട്ടു നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതിനുശേഷം ഇതുവരെ ക്ലാസ്സ് ഒന്നിൽ, കൊല്ലങ്ങളായി ഒരൊറ്റ മുസ്ലീമിനേയും മൻസിഫായിട്ടു നിയമിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നാണ് എനിക്കു ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാനുള്ളത്. ഈ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിനും പല അപേക്ഷകന്മാരും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നിട്ടും അവരുടെ അവകാശങ്ങളെ പരിഗണിച്ചു നിയമനം നടത്തിയിട്ടില്ലെന്നു പറയാതിരിക്കാൻ തരമില്ല. സെക്രട്ടറിയേറ്റിൽ നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിലും സൂപ്രണ്ടുദ്യോഗത്തിനുമേലുള്ള യാതൊരുദ്യോഗങ്ങളിലും ഇന്നു മുസ്ലീംസമുദായത്തിൽനിന്നും ആരുമില്ലെന്നു എനിക്കിവിടെ പറയാതിരിക്കുവാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. സൂപ്രണ്ടൻറ്, അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് സെക്രട്ടറി, സെക്രട്ടറി എന്നീ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളിൽ മറ്റു സകല ജാതിമതസ്ഥരേയും പ്രതിനിധീകരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും മുസ്ലീങ്ങളുടെ അവകാശം തീരെ വിഗണിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു. ഇതുപോലെതന്നെ സക്കാർവക്കീലന്മാർ ലാക്കാളേജു ലക്ചറന്മാർ എന്നീ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കും മുസ്ലീംസമുദായത്തിൽ നിന്നും യോഗ്യതയുള്ള അപേക്ഷകന്മാർ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നിട്ടും അവരെ ആരെയും നിയമിച്ചു കാണു

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ന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഇടക്കാലങ്ങളിൽ ഇപ്രകാരമുള്ള നിയമനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലെന്നവരികിൽ ഞങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിലുള്ള അംഗങ്ങൾക്ക് കിട്ടിയില്ലെന്നുള്ള പരാതി പറയാതിരിക്കാൻ കഴിയും. മറ്റുള്ള എല്ലാ സമുദായങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും ആളുകളെ വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളിൽ നിയമിക്കുമ്പോൾ, മുസ്ലീംസമുദായത്തിലുള്ള ആളുകളെമാത്രം നിയമിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള കാരണം എനിക്ക് അശേഷം മനസിലാകുന്നില്ല. അതു കൊണ്ട് ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും മുസ്ലീങ്ങളുടെ അവകാശങ്ങളെ ശരിയായി പരിഗണിച്ച് ഞങ്ങളുടെ പബ്ലിക്കുസർവ്വീസിലുള്ള അസമത്വത്തിന് ഒരു പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തരണമെന്ന് പുതിയ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളോട് ഞാൻ വളരെ താഴ്മയായി അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. അടുത്തതായി പറയുവാനുള്ളതു എക്സ്റ്റൻഷനെപ്പറ്റിയാണു. ന. ഠ–ം, ന. ഉ–ം, കൊല്ലം ജോലിനോക്കി അതു കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ട അവക്കൊരു വിശ്രമം ആവശ്യമുള്ള സമയത്തു് വീണ്ടും അവരെക്കൊണ്ട് ജോലിചെയ്യിക്കുന്നതു് അവരുടെ ആരോഗ്യത്തിന് ഹാനികരമാണെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല, പിന്നോക്ക സമുദായങ്ങൾക്കും തൊഴിലില്ലാതെ വലഞ്ഞു നടക്കുന്ന മറ്റുദ്യോഗാർത്ഥികൾക്കും എന്നുമാത്രമല്ല സർവീസിലിരിക്കുന്ന ആളുകൾക്കും ഈ എക്സ്റ്റൻഷൻകാരണം വളരെ സങ്കടമുണ്ടാകുന്നു എന്നു ഞാൻ പറയാതെ തന്നെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന് അറിയാവുന്ന സംഗതിയാണ്. വിശേഷിച്ചും ഇപ്പോൾ ഉ ഉ വയസ്സ് എന്നുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗകാലാവധി ൧൦൦ രൂപക്ക് താഴെ ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു ഉ ൦ വർഷമായി നീട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായം ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുള്ളതായിട്ടും അറിയുന്നു. ഈ രണ്ടു സംഗതികൾ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിലിരിക്കുന്നവർക്കു മാത്രമല്ല പിന്നോക്കസമുദായാംഗങ്ങൾക്കും മനസിനു വളരെ വ്യാകുലത ഉളവാക്കീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയാതിരിക്കാൻ തരമില്ല. ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ൧൫ രൂപയും അതിനുതാഴെയും ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്ക് വില ക്രട്ടതൽ അലവൻസായി ഒരു രൂപതല്ക്കാലം അനുവദിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം ഒരു തുക വ്യവസ്ഥചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതു് ചാരിതാർത്ഥ്യജനകമാണെന്നും ഇപ്പോൾ അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന തുക അതിലേക്കു മതിയാകയില്ലെന്നുമാണ് എൻറെ അഭിപ്രായം. ഇടക്കാലത്തു് അവരുടെ ഗ്രാൻറിൽ അര രൂപാ കൂറയേണ്ടതായിവന്ന ഗ്രാൻറുസ്കൂൾ അദ്ധ്യാപകന്മാരുടെ കാര്യം ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ പ്രത്യേകമായി പരിഗണിച്ച് അവരേയും ഈ പരിധിയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി തൽക്കാലം ഈ ഓരോ രൂപയെങ്കിലും അവർക്കും ക്രട്ടതൽ കൊടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അപേക്ഷയോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ വിരമിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

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Sahib Bahadur T. Muhomed Ismail : Sir, the Financial Secretary has presented a war budget. To speak the truth, I never understood the meaning of the expression 'war budget.' I asked some of my honourable friends who were equally ignorant. Therefore I approached the Financial Secretary himself and he was pleased to tell me that it means a fluctuating budget, thereby meaning that with the change in the circumstances of the war our income may also change. I am sure, Sir, that a budget estimate may fluctuate only on the side of income but never on the side of expenditure. It may be possible that we may get only a lesser amount as our income for the next year. But the expenditure will remain the same. Therefore, what we have to see, in considering the budget placed before us, is whether it is possible to cut down the expenditure as far as possible. The members of this House were always requesting the Government to cut down the expenditure as far as possible.

I am fully aware of the fact that the Government do not look with equanimity the proposal to fix the maximum of pay at Rs. 500 and the minimum at Rs. 20. I request that the high salaries, at least should be reduced to a lower amount especially at this time of war when the low-paid servants are nearly starving.

Then there is also the question whether it will be possible to reduce the number of officers in different offices. It is a fact that many of the offices are over-staffed. It is also possible to abolish certain offices and amalgamate some others. These are the methods by which it is possible to reduce the expenditure to a certain extent. But it is not an easy task. Therefore it is my humble suggestion that an influential committee of officials and non-officials may be appointed to go into the matter thoroughly and to come to a decision in finding out ways and means to reduce the expenditure by standardising the salaries of officers, reducing the number of over-staffed offices, abolishing unnecessary ones and by amalgamating others.

Sir, dealing with the question of the low-paid officers I must say a word about the dearness allowance granted to the poor people who are getting Rs. 15 and below. I see before me a card sent by the grant-in-aid school teachers — and I think it is distributed among the other members also—where a pathetic appeal is made. It is this.

"ഞങ്ങൾക്ക ലഭിക്കുന്ന എട്ട രൂപാകൊണ്ട ഇന്ന കിട്ടുന്നതു മുപ്പ തുപാടി അധിയാണ്. ഞങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി വല്ലതും ചെയ്യാമെങ്കിൽ വലി യകാര്യം."

Sir, the Government should really consider this matter coming as it does from a great number of teachers getting a salary of Rs. 8.

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Another point that I wish to stress at this juncture is the scarcity of food. Sir, at the outset I must pay a tribute to the Dewan who just left the place and also to the present Dewan and to the Director of Agriculture and the Division Peishkars in their respective Districts who are doing a lot of work in this connection to see that sufficient quantity of rice is being imported from outside and also to see that the lands are being more and more cultivated. I know, as a matter of fact, from personal experience that but for the untiring perseverence and selfless work of Mr. Narayana Aiyar, the Director of Agriculture, who is the Food Grains Control Officer, it would have been very difficult for the merchants of Travancore to find ways of bringing rice here. Much was said about the profiteering habit of the merchants. I am fully aware of it. But this House and the Government should also remember the difficult conditions of the wholesale merchants also, not because they have less money for their maintenance but because of the difficulties under which they are labouring. I know, Sir, that lakhs and lakhs of rupees are being spent by these wholesale merchants in North India, in the Northern Sirkars, Bezwada, Coconada and other places, and also at Tanjore for two or three months without getting facilities to transport the rice they purchased. They have also to employ their agents to go and get the rice. Wagons are not available. Even when wagons become available and the rice is brought for transport, there are no closed-wagons now. The rice is transported in open wagons and from my personal experience I may inform the House that in one instance where out of a consignment of 1,200 bags of rice brought to Alleppey from Coconada, 50 had gone wet and were useless. They were given to fowls. The merchants do not get interest for their money for long periods. These considerations must weigh with the Government and the people when they accuse them of profiteering.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : May I know from the member whether these merchants have not to pay very substantial tips to the small employees at the railway stations for getting wagons ?

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail : I do not know Sir.

In this connection I would like to bring forward one suggestion to the notice of the authorities. In the matter of sugar we have got only a small quantity from the Thuckalai Sugar Factory. Even this quantity is being distributed by Messrs. Parry & Co. to the merchants in South Travancore and no import of sugar is taking

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[Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail,]

place. I am aware of the attempts of Government to get sufficient quantity of sugar from North India, but it is not reaching us at all. It is a long time since the merchants in North Travancore got any sugar. Till the North Indian sugar comes I would request Government to take steps to see that the Thuckalai sugar is evenly distributed to all the merchants in the State so that throughout the State it may become available.

The only solution for the food problem, as far as I know, is the bringing under cultivation of more lands. As requested by many of my honourable friends, I too request that Government should see that as much land as is available in the forests is leased for three or four years for cultivation. The backwater question also may be taken up in this connection. I think that under the able direction of the present Director of Agriculture we may have more production of rice in future.

At this time of the General discussion of the budget it is only natural that we should repeat our cry, though it was in the wilderness for the last several years about representation in the Public Service. I had repeatedly urged from 1112 onwards that the Muslim community, in the matter of appointments in the Public Service, must be treated fairly. I have put very strongly this view before. As I do not wish to say so at this time when there is a change in the head of the administration, lest I should be misunderstood, I should like to mention this only in a general way. In the matter of higher appointments during the last four or five years I can say that not one of the 30 appointments carrying a salary over Rs. 200 was given to any one from the Muslim community. It is after long agitation Sir, for years together, we got one Muslim appointed in the Secretariat. I must say that when we clamoured for a Muslim to be appointed as a Munsiff, we got one. But when we wanted a Muslim in the Secretariat also this Muslim Munsiff was transferred to the Secretariat. Later when we wanted a Muslim as the head of a department, the same man was posted as the head of the Anchal Department. In all these cases the same man was tossed this side and that, only side ways but never upwards. Another Muslim was appointed as a Conciliation Officer. Every one of his colleagues were appointed and provided for after the Conciliation offices were abolished. But this one man has not been provided with a post perhaps because he happens to be a Muslim.

President: Order, order. That inference is wrong. As a matter of fact the honourable member, if he makes enquiries, will see that Government did offer to that gentleman the same place which another of his brother Conciliation Officer has been offered; but he did not accept the offer.

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Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: I must congratulate him, Sir, for doing that, because all except one were given higher appointments. I do not wish to say anything more on this subject at present, except to say that we are completely neglected in the matter of higher appointments. It will be only fair and just that Muslims are given some representation if not adequate representation. I pray that at this juncture the Chief Secretary should not come forward with figures in regard to the appointment of Muslims as peons and Arabic Munshis. We know that we have got sufficient representation there.

One more point I must mention, though it can most appropriately be done on another day when the demand for the University comes. But it is a general proposition and the Government have to take into consideration the seriousness of it. Sir, all the students in the Colleges and schools were given an interval of two hours on Fridays to enable the Muslim students to offer their Friday Prayers. But now I find that the students of the colleges are given only one hour's interval as on other working days. But this should not be. Unless there is an interval for two hours, it is impossible for the Muslim students to perform their religious functions. I request that Government may take that also into consideration and come to an early decision in favour of two hour's interval on Fridays in the Colleges.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, I also wish to congratulate the Government for their successful financial policy and to thank them for the various relief measures sanctioned by Government. I congratulate the Financial Secretary also for the clear and instructive budget memorandum which he has presented to us. I cannot agree with my honourable friend Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi that congratulating departmental heads is out of place or not parliamentary.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: A word of personal explanation, Sir, I merely said that it is not in good form for any Government officer paying compliments to the head of the Administration, in official documents.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: It is not out of place that is what I think to congratulate the heads of departments or the Government. But the congratulation should not be made for the purpose of getting any personal benefit. If, on the other hand, it is an appreciation of the work of that officer during the one year when he was working day and night to discharge his work satisfactorily, it is quite in place and this will serve as an incentive for him to do further work. As such, I am justified in congratulating the officers for one year's hard work.

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[Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar.]

I have also to bring to the notice of Government the question of subsidy that is being paid to the British Government. Whatever may be the grounds that existed before or the conditions on which it was begun to be paid, they no longer exist now. The subsidy is a very big amount and it is high time that this Government take steps to see that this subsidy is no longer paid.

I shall next refer to the items of retrenchment to which reference was made by some of the honourable members. I wish to bring to the notice of Government that it may be possible to have the Anchal and the Registration Departments combined and placed under a single officer. It can be seen that the total number of registration offices comes to about 85 and the number of Anchal offices, including non-departmental offices, comes to about 218. A very competent officer is at the head of the Registration Department and he is drawing a substantial salary. I also see that in the sister State of Cochin these two offices are combined and working satisfactorily.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Is it the member's suggestion that the Anchal and the Registration Departments should be placed under the present Anchal Superintendent?

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: No sir. The present Anchal Superintendent may be taken to some other department, where he can do more useful work instead of remaining idle.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi. Is not the Director of Registration also the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies?

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Yes sir. The report shows the number of offices inspected by the joint stock Registrar in the year under reference comes only to less than 40.

Mr. Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai: Is he not also the Registrar of Insurance?

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Yes sir. From the nature of the work that I was able to gather from the reports, I think it is possible for that officer to manage other offices also. When he comes to inspect the registration offices he can also inspect the Anchal Inspector's Offices. If such a thing is possible and is attended to with success in the sister State of Cochin, it should be possible in this State also. I make only a suggestion worthy to be tried.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Is it the opinion of the honourable member that the Director of Registration has not sufficient work and therefore the Anchal Department should be tacked on with the Registration Department.

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Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: In my opinion he has not sufficient work. He could utilise his spare time for the administration of other departments.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Has not the work of the Registrar increased with the passage of the new Bill the Company Law?

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: It has not very much increased the work of the officer.

President: The honourable member has only one minute more.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Government has been pleased to sanction a dearness allowance of Re. 1. only for those Government servants who receive a salary of Rs. 15 and below. During the last war, Government granted a ten per cent allowance to officers who were receiving a salary of Rs. 50 and below. It is admitted by the Financial Secretary that the cost of living has increased by 25 per cent. These poor employees cannot live with their small pay. So Government should be pleased to give them adequate relief by way of dearness allowance for the work they turn out so that they may lead their life peacefully.

Then I would say a word about the Agricultural Department. It has been admitted that the most vital need of the day is increased production of food stuffs. I congratulate the Controller of Food Supplies on his quick and sympathetic actions. An hour ago, I got information from a responsible citizen from Parur who came here for informing me and the Government that there is shortage of rice in Parur very badly. At once I informed the controller of it and he was kind enough to wire to the agents to supply 1000 sacks of rice to Parur at once. I thank him for his ready response and for making further arrangements for further supplies. Having realised the necessity for growing more food stuffs throughout the country, I am at a loss to know what the Government have done towards continuing that process. Is there any provision made in the Budget for such a process? We see that in the Budget the provision that is made for the Agricultural Department is only Rs. 1,60,000. Deducting the amount set apart for establishment charges and T. A. etc., there is only Rs. 2,500 set apart for demonstration on private lands. It appears from the Financial Secretary's report that there are 18 Demonstrators employed throughout the State. No amount is set apart for conducting demonstrations by the demonstrators on lands other than private lands. No plot of land is entrusted to them. It appears also that the work of these Demonstrators is to do propaganda. It will be seen that mere propaganda is not sufficient especially in these days. Government should pay more attention to the problem of practical food production. It can be seen that Government have not done very much in that direction.

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Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar.]

I may be permitted to read some portion from the Leader of the "Madras Mail" dated the 30th July 1942 to show what the Government of Great Britain has done in this important matter notwithstanding their serious war troubles. During the time of the last war, England's necessity in the matter of food supplies could not be met by the production within the country. So the people were given some sort of assurance that if they produced the necessary food supplies Government will give them certain concessions. Agriculturists acted on that assurance. But when the war was over Government did not act as they promised and the agriculturists were put to heavy loss. Just before the present war the same controversy arose and agriculturists refused to act or co-operate unless the Government guaranteed their pledges in a legal and binding form and so the Government had to agree to give guarantees incorporated in legal form and binding upon them. On that guarantees the agriculturists worked successfully and prevented the food problem difficulty. The following extract will show how the problem was tackled and what this Government should do on this critical occasion.

> "Before the war started, Great Britain was dependent on overseas supplies for nearly 60 per cent of the nation's food. This year thanks to the zeal and ingenuity of farmers, assisted by facilities accorded by the Government Departments, British agriculture has produced more than 66 2/3rds of the nation's food. And plans are already in process of development to increase this percentage still further until, in 1943, the farmers of Great Britain produce 75 per cent of the food required by Britain's people and the large numbers of Allied peoples and troops now resident in the United Kingdom.
>
> "How has it been done? First, by winning the confidence of the farmers by convincing them that they will receive a square deal now and after the war, Second, by making the maximum use of all agricultural and scientific knowledge, and carrying out a great deal of research. For almost the first time in British History, Government and farmers are co-operating to the fullest possible extent, the former providing the finance, the machinery, and the results of scientific research, and the latter practical agricultural knowledge without which the best laid schemes of Government go astray."

So unless Government also set apart a decent sum for helping the poor agriculturists for purchasing seeds, implements, manure and other things and informing them the results of Scientific research and agricultural knowledge and providing them with cheap and good manure at convenient places the agriculture of the country cannot be improved. Simply to have propaganda work saying that you do this and you do that will not increase the food supply of the country. Again I submit a special officer should be appointed

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to investigate how much land is under cultivation and how much more can be brought under cultivation whether there are not sufficient irrigation facilities and so on. Unless these things are done and sufficient amounts set apart, this difficulty will never come to an end. The population is increasing. The present supply control system is only a temporary remedy. we have to avert future difficulty also especially when it is realised that import of food stuffs from outside India may not be possible in the near future. So I request the Government to give sufficient attention to this all important problem. With these few words I support the demand.

Mr. T. K. Kittan : പൊന്നുതമ്പുരാൻ തിരുമനസ്സിലെ തിരുവുള്ളമുണ്ടായി അങ്ങയെ അഫിഷ്യേറ്റിംഗ് ദിവാൻജിയായി നിയമിച്ചതിൽ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമേനിയോടു ഞങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള അകൈതവമായ കൃത്യാദരങ്ങളെ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു. ഈ ചുമതലയേറിയ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിൽ അങ്ങുക്കു സർവ്വവിജയങ്ങളും ആശംസിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

കഴിഞ്ഞ കർക്കടകമാസം ഏതാണ്ടു ഈ തീയതികളിൽ ഫ്ര ഠ-ലെ മുതലെടുപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഞങ്ങൾ നിരൂപണംചെയ്തു. അപ്പോൾ യുദ്ധം തകൃതിയായി നടക്കുന്നുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഫ വ ഠ ലക്ഷത്തിൽ ചിലപ്പോൾ രൂപാ അന്നു മുതലെടുപ്പിൽ പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്നു എങ്കിലും ആ തുക യഥാർത്ഥത്തിലുള്ള വരവായി തീരുമോ എന്നു എല്ലാവരും സംശയിച്ചു. ഇപ്പോൾ മുതലെടുപ്പു ന കോടിഒരുലക്ഷം രൂപയായി വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അതായതു് ഫ ഫ ലക്ഷം രൂപക്കൂടുതൽ. അതുകൊണ്ടു യുദ്ധത്തിനെപ്പറ്റി ആരും ഭയപ്പെടണ്ടാ. ഇത്ര കൂടുതൽ ഒരു മുതലെടുപ്പു ഈ രാജ്യത്തു—ഇതിനുമുമ്പു ഒരിക്കലും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. ഫ ഫ ഫ ഠ ഒരു "റിക്കാർഡു വർഷമാണു്." യുദ്ധം നമ്മുടെ പടിവാതിൽക്കൽ എത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട വൈസറോയിയും സചിവോത്തമ സർ. സി. പി. രാമസ്വാമിഅയ്യരും പറഞ്ഞു കഴിഞ്ഞു. യുദ്ധം വരട്ടെ പോകട്ടെ നമുക്കു നമ്മുടെ കാര്യം നോക്കാം. ആഹാരസാധനം (അരി) ലഭിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു എല്ലാവരും ഭയപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ടു്. ആ പേടി എനിക്കുമുണ്ടു്. ഇപ്പോൾ എവിടെ നോക്കിയാലും കൂടുതൽ ആഹാരസാധനം ഉണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഗവണ്മെൻറു പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളാണു (പ്ലാക്കാർഡുകൾ) കാണുന്നതു്. എല്ലാവരും എല്ലായ്പോഴും എല്ലായിടത്തും കൃഷി സാധനങ്ങൾ വിളയിക്കുക എന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറു് ഉൽബോധിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. വീടിൻെറ മുറ്റത്തുപോലും കൃഷി ചെയ്യുവാൻ ഗ്രൂദ്ദോഷിക്കുന്നു. അതനുസരിച്ചു് ജനങ്ങൾ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുമെങ്കിൽ നമുക്കു ആഹാരസാധനത്തിനു ഒരു ക്ഷാമവും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതല്ല.

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[Mr. T. K. Kittan.]

അരിയുടെ ചെലവു എല്ലാവിധത്തിലും കുറയ്ക്കണം. ഒരു നേരത്തിനു പകരം ഒരു നേരം അരികൊണ്ടുള്ള ആഹാരം ഭക്ഷിക്കണം. മറ്റൊരു നേരത്തേക്കു മറ്റെന്തെങ്കിലും പദാർത്ഥം കഴിക്കണം. ആ ആഹാരം എന്തായിരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതിനെപ്പറ്റി വേണ്ട വിധത്തിൽ വിദഗ്ദ്ധന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടു ഗവേഷണം നടത്തിച്ചു് ഒരു 'ആഹാരക്രമം' കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറു് ഏർപ്പാടു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണു്. അതിനുള്ള സാദ്ധ്യത ഇവിടെയുണ്ടു്. നമ്മുടെ യൂനിവേർസിറ്റിയിൽ നല്ല റിസർച്ചുവേലകൾ നടക്കുന്നുണ്ടല്ലൊ. അവർ ഇതു കണ്ടു പിടിക്കട്ടെ. അങ്ങിനെ ഒന്നു കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചു പ്രസിദ്ധംചെയ്താൽ ജനങ്ങൾ നിശ്ചയമായും അതു ഭക്ഷിച്ചു പരിചയിച്ചുകൊള്ളും. യൂറോപ്പിൽ 'ഐറിഷ് സ്റ്റൂ' (Irish Stew) എന്ന ഒരു ഭക്ഷണസാധനമുണ്ടു്. അതു അയർലണ്ടിലെ ഒരു മദാമ്മ കണ്ടുപിടിച്ച ഒരാഹാരസാധനമാണു്. ഇപ്പോൾ എല്ലാരാജ്യത്തും (കൊട്ടാരംമുതൽ കുടിൽവരെ,) ഈ ഭക്ഷണസാധനം ഉപയോഗപ്പെട്ടുന്നു.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : ഇതു് കിഴങ്ങാണോ പഴമാണോ?

Mr. T. K. Kittan : അതു് ഇറച്ചിയും മലക്കറിവർഗ്ഗങ്ങളും മറ്റും കൂട്ടിച്ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു പദാർത്ഥമാണു്. ഇവിടെ ജേക്കബ്സ്, സേവിയർ മുതലായവരുടെ ഹോട്ടലുകളിൽ കിട്ടും. വേണമെങ്കിൽ ഭക്ഷിച്ചുനോക്കാം.

ഫ ഫ ഫ ൽ ഉള്ള മുതലെടുപ്പിനെപ്പറ്റി ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞു കഴിഞ്ഞു. ഫ ഫ വ-ലെ വരവു ന ൻ ൦ ലക്ഷം രൂപയാണു്. ഈ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ മിച്ചം വരുമെന്നും കണക്കാക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ന കോടി രൂപയിൽനിന്നു നാം എന്തിനു പുറകോട്ടുപോകുന്നു എന്നാണു് ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നതു്. നമുക്കു പുറകോട്ടു പോകുന്ന ഒരു സ്വഭാവം പാടില്ല. ഫ ഫ ഫ ന-ൽ ന അരകോടിരൂപയാണു് മുതലെടുപ്പു്. ഇപ്പോൾ അതു ന കോടിയായിട്ടു വർദ്ധിച്ചു. ക്രമാനുഗതമായ ഈ വർദ്ധനവിനെ പരിഗണിക്കുമ്പോൾ പുറകോട്ടു പോകേണ്ട ആവശ്യം നമുക്കൊരിക്കലുമില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഈ എസ്റ്റിമേറു് ഒന്നു തിരുത്തുന്നതു കൊള്ളാം.

ഫ ഫ ഫ വ-ലേക്കു സാധാരണ ചെലവുകൾക്കു പുറമെ മൂലധനച്ചെലവിനു ന ൦ ലക്ഷം രൂപയും അത്യാഹിതയാദൃച്ഛികസംഭവങ്ങൾക്കു സംഭാവന ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഒ ലക്ഷം രൂപായും ക്ഷാമപ്പടിയ്ക്കു ന

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ലക്ഷം രൂപയും നീക്കിവച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ക്ഷാമപ്പടി ഗ്രാൻറുസ്സ്കൂൾ അദ്ധ്യാപകന്മാർക്കു കിട്ടുമോ എന്നെനിക്കറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. മിക്കവാറും കിട്ടുകയില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അറിവ്. അതുകൊണ്ടു അവർക്കുകൂടി ക്ഷാമപ്പടി കൊടുക്കത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ മിച്ചമുള്ള തുകയിൽനിന്നും ഒന്നോരണ്ടോ ലക്ഷം രൂപാകൂടി ക്ഷാമപ്പടി ഇനത്തിൽ കൂടുതലായി അനുവദിച്ചു് അവരെ സഹായിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. അവരുടെ ജീവിതനിലവളരെ കഷ്ടമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. എട്ടുരൂപാകൊണ്ടു ഒരു വാദ്ധ്യാരും അയാളുടെ ഭാര്യയും മൂന്നാലു കുട്ടികളും കഴിയണം. ഇതു എങ്ങിനെ കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂടും. വലിയ ദയനീയം.

കഴിഞ്ഞ ആണ്ടത്തെ ബഡ്ജറവുപ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി പറഞ്ഞിരുന്നു. വടക്കു രണ്ടുമൂന്നു താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ലീഫ്റവ് ഇറിഗേഷൻ സംപ്രദായംമൂലം നടപ്പിൽവരുത്തുവാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു എന്നും ൨൫൦൦൦ ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലത്തു ഈ സംപ്രദായം നെൽക്കൃഷി നടത്താമെന്നും ഈ പദ്ധതിപ്രകാരം ൨൫ ലക്ഷം പറ നെല്ലു് വിളയിച്ചെടുക്കാമെന്നും എന്നാൽ ഈ ആണ്ടത്തെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഒന്നും മിണ്ടിയിട്ടില്ല. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞുകേൾക്കുന്നതിനു വലിയ ആഗ്രഹമുണ്ടു്. കൂടാതെ എനിക്കു് വേറൊരു സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാനുള്ളതു് ഫ്ര ഫ്ര ൭-ലെ ബഡ്ജറുബുക്കു് ഫ ൪-ാം പുറത്തു രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ കടം ൯൩൩൯൨൫൦൦ രൂപയെന്നും, ഫ്ര ഫ്ര ൮-ലെ പ്രെലിമിനറി ബഡ്ജറവ് ഫ൯-ാംപുറത്തു് മേല്പടി സംഖ്യ ൯൩൭൦൩൭൦൦ രൂപ എന്നും കാണുന്നു. ഒരു മാത്രികൊണ്ടു ഏകദേശം ൫ കോടി രൂപയുടെ വ്യത്യാസം കടം വകയിൽ വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതു് എങ്ങിനെയുണ്ടായി എന്നു് അറിഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : സർ, ബഡ്ജറിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഒരു പൊതുവിമർശനം ചെയ്യണമെന്നു് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. രാജ്യത്തുള്ള ഭൂരിപക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഐശ്വര്യവും സമാധാനവും തന്നെ് മൊത്തത്തിൽ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധി എന്നു പറയുന്നതു്. ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ കടന്നു്, അവിടെയുള്ള സാധുജനങ്ങളുടെ ജീവിതരീതിയെ കണ്ടറിയുന്ന ഏതൊരു പുരുഷനും രാജ്യത്തു് ക്ഷേമവും ഐശ്വര്യവും ഇല്ലെന്നു ഖണ്ഡിച്ചു പറയാൻ കഴിയും. ജനസഞ്ചയത്തിന്റെ യഥാർത്ഥനില എന്താണെന്നു്, ജനപ്രതിനിധികളും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ മനസ്സിലാക്കി, തൽപരിഹാരാർത്ഥം വേണ്ട അനുകൂല്യങ്ങളും സാധിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശത്തോടുകൂടിയാണു നാം ഇവിടെ സമ്മേളിക്കു

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[Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan.]

ന്നത്. പ്രധാനമായിട്ട്, യുദ്ധം നിമിത്തമുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള വൈഷമ്യങ്ങളെ ക്കൊണ്ടും മററും ജനങ്ങളെ പലതരത്തിൽ വിഷമിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ഒരു കാലഘട്ടമാണിത്. എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതന്മാരിൽ പലരും ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതുപോലെ, സാധുജനങ്ങളുടെ ആഹാരപ്രശ്നത്തിന്, പെട്ടെന്ന് ഒരു പോംവഴി കണ്ടുപിടിക്കയാണ് ഒന്നാമതായിവേണ്ടത്. രണ്ടാമതായി, എല്ലാസമുദായങ്ങൾക്കും, ഒരുപോലെ ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങൾ, ഭരണവിഷയത്തിൽ നൽകേണ്ടതാണ്. പബ്ലിക്കുസർവ്വീസിലുള്ള അസമത്വത്തെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനാണ്, ഇവിടെ ഒരു സർവ്വീസ് കമ്മീഷണറെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. എന്നാലും ഉദ്യോഗവിതരണവിഷയത്തിൽ നീതി പാലിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു പറയാതെ തരമില്ല. കഴിഞ്ഞയാണ്ടിൽ, സർവീസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ ഉദ്യോഗം തന്നെ നിറുത്തലാക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്ന് ഞാൻ ഈ സഭ മുമ്പാകെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കയുണ്ടായി. ഇന്നും എനിക്ക് പറയാനുള്ളത് എന്തെന്നാൽ, സർവീസ് കമ്മീഷണർ രാജ്യവാസികൾക്ക് ഒരുപോലെ ഉദ്യോഗപ്രാതിനിധ്യം കൊടുക്കുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ നിറുത്തൽ ചെയ്യണമെന്നാണ്. ഉദാഹരണമായി പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവീസ് ഓഫീസിലെ നിയമനങ്ങളുടെ പട്ടിക എടുത്തു നോക്കുന്നപക്ഷം, അസമത്വസമുദായങ്ങൾക്ക്, അവർ അർഹിക്കുന്നിടത്തോളം ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ ലഭിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നു വ്യക്തം കാണാൻ കഴിയും. വൈദേശികനായ ഒരു ഭരണാധ്യക്ഷം വഹിക്കുന്ന ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലും ശുപാർശകം ഫലിക്കുന്നതുമൂലം ഉളവാകുന്ന അനാശാസ്യമായ നിലയെ പരിഹരിക്കേണ്ടതു ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു കാര്യമാകുന്നു. ഉദ്യോഗം എന്നു പറയുന്നതുതന്നെ ഒരു ജീവൽപ്രശ്നമാണ്. നീതിയും ന്യായവും നടത്തിയില്ലെങ്കിൽ, ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ആവശ്യമേ രാജ്യത്തിനില്ല. ഞാൻ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട സിറിയൻ കത്തോലിക്കാ സമുദായത്തെ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്നതിന് ഒരു സിറിയൻ കത്തോലിക്കനോ, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ, ഈഴവസമുദായത്തിനുവേണ്ടി, ഒരു ഈഴവനോ, എന്റെ എതിരുവശത്തു കാണുന്ന ഉയർന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ ഇല്ല. ഇതു ചില സമുദായങ്ങളെ അസ്വസ്ഥതയിലേക്ക് വഴികാട്ടുന്നു. അതിനാൽ ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനവിഷയത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ സംതൃപ്തിയും, സമാധാനവും ഉണ്ടാകാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. എനിക്കു ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാനുള്ള വേറൊരു സംഗതി, ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിൽ താമസിക്കുന്ന ആളുകൾക്ക് ആരോഗ്യപരമായിട്ടോ, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപരമായിട്ടോ, സഞ്ചാരപരമായിട്ടോ, യാതൊരു സൗകര്യവും

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ചെയ്യ കൊടുക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഉൾപ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ ആവശ്യമുള്ള പുലങ്ങൾ, റോഡുകൾ, തോടുകൾ, മുതലായവയ്ക്കു വേണ്ട പണം അനുവദിക്കുന്നില്ല. അനുവദിച്ച പണം മുഴുവൻ ചെലവാക്കുന്നില്ല. മറ്റു ചിലപ്പോൾ പണം അനുവദിച്ചാൽത്തന്നെയും ജോലി തുടങ്ങുകയില്ല. ഉദാഹരണമായി, ആലപ്പുഴ—ചങ്ങനാശേരി തോടിന്റേയും റോഡിന്റേയും കായ്യം എടുക്കാം. ഈ തോട് വെട്ടുന്ന വകയ്ക്കായിട്ട് റിസർവ് ഫണ്ടിൽ നിന്ന് ഒരു ലക്ഷം രൂപാ അനുവദിച്ചു. എന്നിട്ടും ഇതുവരെയുണ്ടായിട്ടും അതു് നടപ്പിൽ വന്നിട്ടില്ല. ബഹുജനങ്ങളെക്കൊണ്ട് നിബിഡമായിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കടിക്കുന്നതിനുതന്നെ ശുദ്ധജലം കിട്ടാതെ വളരെ വിഷമിക്കുന്നു. ആ സ്ഥലത്തുള്ള പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട ഒരു ജന്മി കൊടുക്കുന്ന ഒരാണ്ടത്തെ കരത്തിന്റെ ഒരു ചെറിയ സംഖ്യപോലും, ആ സ്ഥലത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ചെലവാക്കുന്നില്ലാ എന്നുള്ളതു പരിതാപകരംതന്നെ. ചില സ്ഥലവിഭാഗക്കാർക്ക് അത്യന്താപേക്ഷിതമായ യാതൊരു ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങളും ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ള ഒരു അസ്വസ്ഥമനസ്ഥിതി അവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങളിൽ പടർന്നു പിടിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതിനുംപുറമെ ഈ യുദ്ധപരിതഃസ്ഥിതിയിൽ ആഹാരസാധനം കിട്ടുകയില്ലെന്നും വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഒരു വിഷമസന്ധിയിൽ പാവപ്പെട്ട കൂലിവേലക്കാരുടെ കായ്യം വളരെ പരുങ്ങലിലാണ്. ഇവർക്കു നിവർത്തിയില്ലാതെ വരുമ്പോൾ വല്ല സ്ഥലത്തേക്കോ മറ്റോ ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ എളുപ്പമുണ്ട്. അതിനാൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ യോജിപ്പുണ്ടാക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം ഗവണ്മെന്റു വേണ്ടതു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുകയും, അവർക്കു ആഹാരത്തിനു വേണ്ടവഴിയുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു് കർശനമായ നടപടി തുടങ്ങുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്. കുടാതെ ൨൦ രൂപയിൽ താഴ്ന്ന ശമ്പളക്കാർക്ക് ഏതെങ്കിലും അല്പശമ്പളക്കൂട്ടുതൽ കൊടുക്കുകയും വലിയ ശമ്പളങ്ങളെ വെട്ടിക്കുറയ്ക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്. അതുപോലെ ഭൂമി അധികം കൈവശം വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നവർ പിന്നേയും പുതുവൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കയ്യേറ്റം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനെ തടയേണ്ടതുമാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റു് നിർദ്ദേശം അനുസരിച്ചും കൃഷിസൗകര്യത്തെ കരുതി പതിച്ചു കിട്ടുമെന്നുള്ള ഉത്തമവിശ്വാസത്തോടുകൂടിയും പുതുവൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചു ദേഹണ്ഡംചെയ്തു് ആദായം എടുക്കത്തക്ക നിലയിൽ കൃഷിചെയ്തുവരുന്ന പുതുവൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ ഓരോ കേസിന്റേയും സ്ഥിതിവിവരങ്ങൾ നോക്കി പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു. കുട്ടനാട് മുതലായ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെ ആറുവക്കത്തു് ഇടിഞ്ഞു നികന്നുപോയിട്ടുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽഭൂമി സംരക്ഷണാർത്ഥം ചെയ്ത വേലകളുടെ ഫലമായി മനഃപൂർവ്വമായ കയ്യേറ്റമനസ്ഥിതി കുടാതെ നിക

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[Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan.]

ന്നപോയിട്ടുള്ള ഒന്നും രണ്ടും സെൻറ സ്ഥലങ്ങളും വസ്തുഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു പതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. അധികൃതർ താമസത്തിനുവേണ്ടി കൈവശപ്പെടുത്തി ദേഹണ്ഡിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളും അവർക്കുതന്നെ പതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഒട്ടും ഭൂമിയില്ലാത്ത സാധുക്കൾക്ക്, ഒരു പാട്ടവ്യവസ്ഥയിലെങ്കിലും ചെറിയ ചെറിയ സ്ഥലങ്ങളും ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യണം. അങ്ങനെ കൃഷിക്കു താല്പര്യമുള്ള ആളുകൾക്കു സ്ഥലങ്ങളും പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ, നമുക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള നെല്ലു ഇവിടെത്തന്നെ വിളയിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. അതിനാൽ ഈ കാര്യങ്ങളെ വേണ്ടതുപോലെ പരിചിന്തിച്ചു രാജ്യത്തുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള അസമാധാനത്തേയും അസ്വസ്ഥതയേയും പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനു ഏതെല്ലാം മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽ കൂടിയാണോ പ്രവർത്തിക്കേണ്ടതു് ആ മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽ കൂടിയെല്ലാം ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ സതുരദൃഷ്ടി പതിയേണ്ടകാലം അതിസന്നമായിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നും ഞാൻ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Miss Thresia Kora: Sir, I too congratulate the Financial Secretary for the presentation of a surplus budget. It is gratifying to note that Government are doing everything in their power to prevent the scarcity of food stuffs in the country. But in the matter of medical aid, however, the rural parts are still in need. Allopathic medicines have risen in prices and it is very difficult to get them on account of the war. Under such circumstances it is advisable to encourage the Ayurveda system of treatment. I pray to Government not to relax strict scrutiny now observed in keeping the prices of essential commodities normal as far as possible. As the road is mostly on the bank of the Meenachil river it is generally under water during monsoon season. With a very little expense the means of communication can at least be made uninterrupted. One more fact I wish to place before the attention of Government, viz., the necessity of raising the level of the Kottayam-Poonjar road, in some places. (The road runs mostly on the bank of the Meenachil river and so the urgency of the levelling of this road is all the more greater.) With these words I close my observations.

Mr. T. KrishnaPillai: Sir, this is an era of surplus budget, and no wonder; our current Financial Secretary also has presented us a surplus one. But, Sir, the days when Statesmen and Financiers

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thought that wisdom required annual additions to the cash balances of the State are long past ; and so long as the surplus is brought about not by economics in the machinery of administration, but by dwindling and dwarfing the free utilisation of all available funds for development and ameliorative work, the tax payer has a legitimate ground for complaint. But I also do congratulate the Financial Secretary and thank him heartily, not certainly for the surplus budget, because we know perfectly that his responsibilities for the budget estimates are vicarious and even shadowy, but for his short speech and its swift delivery to our great relief, unlike his relentless predecessors.

The one acid test by which to judge the merit of the budget is to examine how far the rosy picture exhibited in the budget approximates to conditions obtaining in the country. As a result of the operations of world causes the conditions of the people have become tremendously impoverished. But one looks in vain in the Financial Secretary's speech explanatory of the budget or in the budget estimates to find evidence of any attempt to promote the well-being of the ryot. The colossal loan of one lakh of rupees to the Co-operative Central Bank, sixteen manure depots in different centres, and an industrial machinery show-room may be considered as tremendous undertakings worthy to be mentioned with supreme satisfaction by the Financial Secretary. But Sir, I ask in all seriousness, what would these avail the poor agriculturists who, undoubtedly, forms the mainstay of the Financial stability and prosperity of this State Sir, of late the spokesmen of Government began to wax eloquent on the necessity to strive every nerve to increase the production of paddy and other food-stuffs. The Director of Agriculture was harping to our ears his concentrated enthusiastic efforts for intensive cultivation. Sir, intensive cultivation, lift-irrigation, conversion of single crop land into double crop land, and things of the sort and quite good and laudable in their own way to combat the evil of insufficient production of paddy in the State, but, Sir, to continue experimenting and preaching at the expense of paying inadequate heed to the already existing facilities for augmenting the production of paddy is not at all a safe or sound policy. To quote one instance, Sir, there are many irrigation tanks in South Travancore which due to the pernicious policy of registering tank beds, resorted to by Government in the past and due to the criminal neglect of its repair and renovation during these years fields which were yielding 20 to 25 folds have either dwindled down to 3 to 5 folds or were converted to garden lands. Sir, I am not unaware of the fact that large sums are yearly pro-

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[Mr. T. Krishna Pillai]

vided for maintenance and improvement of irrigation tanks. But of this a handsome portion is not spent at all. They are added on to the irrigation fund. The very existence of that fund and the yearly growth of it to quite disproportionate dimensions is proof positive of the serious neglect of minor irrigation works. Some years back, Government, in order to concentrate fully on minor irrigation works, separated the Irrigation Section from the P. W. D. and for some mysterious reason. After some time, this irrigation branch was amalgamated with the P. W. D. The P. W. D. Advisory Committees the Economic Development Board and scores of other non-official Agricultural associations sent up recommendation after recommendation for the formation of a separate and independent Irrigation Department to concentrate solely on irrigation works. And it is regrettable to find that the Financial Secretary has not made even a passing mention of this important matter about minor irrigation works. Is this not,

Sir, symptomatic of the manner in which budgets are made by our Financial Secretaries?

A word about the Industries Department. Much has been said about the industrialisation of Travancore. It has often been stated that there is no salvation for this country unless alongside with agriculture industrialisation is proceeded with not by starting big scale industries on a factory basis, but by creating a network of cottage industries. Sir, the history of the Industries Department is one of alternating hopes and disappointments. Factories and depots were opened with a flourish of trumpets and closed with a funeral note; experts were trained, tried, and transferred to vegetate in other departments, the opening of sales depots and trade agencies were the order of the day during some years back. All these ventures ended in loss as anticipated by us. Now, Sir, the Financial Secretary says in his speech that some labour saving machinery in order to develop cottage and other industries in the State will be exhibited in an industrial show-room evidently as a miraculous panacea for our industrial lethargy. As irony of fate would have it, our Financial Secretary is determined on opening sales depots and industrial show rooms in spite of repeated failures in the past years and imperceptibly metamorphoses the Director of Industries to be a veritable selling and advertising agent to certain engineering concerns on the other side of the ghats. Government have invested large sums of money for the starting of large scale

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industries such as the Rubber Factory, the Sugar Factory at Thackalai etc. The activities of all these industrial concerns contributed matter for swelling the otherwise blank Administration Report of the Industries Department. It was said, Sir, that the annual income from these factories would go from 5 to 10 lakhs of rupees. Indeed very big and round figures are these, but will not such sums be going to the pockets of those fortunate foreign capitalists. There was only serious disappointment in the working of that department.

Next, I shall deal with the decentralisation of the Medical Department.

President: Your time is up.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: I shall finish Sir. At this stage when there is a great war going on, no use is derived by encouraging the English system of treatment. Allopathic medicines could not be procured. There is no need to incur any additional expenditure in that direction. Ayurvedic system of treatment has to be cared for in these times. The steady increase in the number of patients in the Ayurveda Hospital at Trivandrum and at Neyyattinkara show that people have great faith in that system of treatment. Moreover, materials for preparing indigenous drugs are got in plenty locally. That being the case, I would urge on the pointed attention of Government that instead of spending money on foreign drugs, it is better to subsidise more Ayurvedic Vaidyasalas and encourage thereby the native system of treatment.

Mr. James Fletcher: Sir, the Financial Secretary has produced a very satisfactory budget. But I desire to point out certain defects which he ought to have been taken care of by him. To begin with, this budget was prepared while a very disastrous war was going on. That war has brought out many changes. One of the important changes that affect Travancore is going through with reference to the food problem. Naturally one expects certain provisions for the supply of rice to the poor people. Now, Sir, the price of paddy has gone very high. The Government have immediately to take steps to stop the rise in prices. They should put a stop to fluctuations in price levels. Unless and until there is supply of rice from outside, it is impossible to check the high prices in commodities such as rice and paddy. Unless Government can replace rice used up by consumption, the demand will grow up and naturally the price also will go up. Therefore, the most important thing that has to be done is to stock sufficient quantity of rice. Government themselves should undertake this work to a great

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[Mr. James Fletcher]

extent. Of course, Government have helped the merchants to do that, for which the people are exceedingly thankful and specially to the present Dewan for the special interest taken by him in that matter. They are also aware of the fact that His Highness the Maharaja had also taken personal interest in this problem. In this connection my suggestion is that Government will have to open rice depots in various places in Travancore. Though there are merchants to sell rice, they will do it according to their convenience. A Government depot for selling rice will have the effect of keeping down the price level. As somebody said, the quantity of rice to be purchased must be as if we are purchasing anchal stamps. There the price is a fixed one. It is available in different centres. By doing so, the poor people will get rice from wherever they go at a fixed price.

Now, there is a proposal from Government to enhance the salaries of persons getting a pay of Rs. 15 per mensem. It is the price of rice which makes the living costly. That being so, dearness allowance has to be given for the purchase of rice. If Government depots are opened, not only Government servants but also grant-in-aid teachers and other persons who get a smaller income will be benefited and they can purchase rice, at a low price. Even though the grant of dearness allowance to low paid officers is given out, the majority of poor people could be benefited by the cheap rice depot.

A word about the proposal to raise the motor fares in the Transport Department. It is a Government monopoly, so to say. Without the Transport Department, it has become impossible for people to travel from one place to another nowadays. When people have not got sufficient money for travel in these times, to increase the fares will not be in order. Money is wanted for purchasing the essential commodities, rice for instance. The people are having so much expense in various directions. Under all these circumstances, to increase the rate of fares in the Transport Department is not proper. It may be said that travelling should be restricted. But I may inform here and now that the people of Travancore do not travel for pleasure alone. Sir, I may assure you that the people of Travancore do not travel for pleasure alone. Unless and until there is extreme necessity they will avoid travelling in bus. Travelling by the transport buses is not a pleasant journey at all. Anybody who is travelling in the bus will know the hardship of the journey.

Mr. E. G. Salter: May I know from the honourable member how he explains the increase in the number of passengers to 45,000 a month?

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Mr. James Fletcher: I shall answer that. If people have to go from Neyyattinkara to Trivandrum to attend court or for some other business or for purchase of things from Trivandrum they have necessarily to go by the bus. Either they have to walk or travel by bus. The bus service is a monopoly. So far as comfort is concerned it is not possible to get comfort in the buses. They have got only a limited number of buses. So people have to go by those buses.

Regarding the raising of fare, my submission is that fares should not be raised under the present conditions.

Without going beyond safety conditions any over-load may be allowed.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan: ഓവർലോഡ് എന്ന പറഞ്ഞാൻ ഒരു ബസ്സിൽ കയറാവുന്ന എണ്ണത്തിൽ ഇരട്ടിയോ, അതിലിരട്ടിയോ എത്രയാണെന്ന് അതിന്റെ നമ്പർ പറയുവാൻ ദയവുണ്ടാകുമോ ?

Mr. James Fletcher: That depends upon the space available.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Raising of fares is a question of public policy and not one of revenue alone.

Mr. James Fletcher: I do not wish to go further into the question, Sir.

Regarding the present land revenue system, my opinion is that the Sircar tax ought to be paid by the agriculturists to Government. Often there are arrears of land revenue and properties are sold by revenue authorities for arrears of tax. In such cases the difficulties that are found by lawyers and by the Government are these ; The person who has to pay the tax is not directly informed. The Thandaper or pattah stands in the name of deceased persons ; and the notices are served by the officers on dead persons. So lands are sold away in auction. Some times several acres of land are sold for one or two rupees. The very fact that the prices fetched are inadequate will show that there has not been proper publication of the sale and other connected proceedings. Therefore I would bring to the attention of Government that wherever a case of a sale of property for every inadequate price comes to the notice of Government that itself should be considered as an irregularity in the procedure of revenue auction. So far as the Civil courts are concerned there are rulings that when a property is sold for a very inadequate price that is an irregularity which will vitiate the sale. Similarly under the Revenue Recovery Regulation that also must be considered by the Division Peishkar, or the Dewan when appeals are brought before them as a circumstance vitiating the sale and the revenue auction should be set aside.

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Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I bring to the attention of the member that there is a particular section in the Revenue Recovery Act which has reference to this?

Mr. James Fletcher: I am not aware of that. As far as I know, there is no section which states that the inadequacy of price vitiates the sale.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: May I know whether there is not a provisoion in the Revenue Recovery Act for setting aside the sale?

Mr. James Fletcher: There is no such provision. That is my point. Of course, Section 40 says that only sufficient area out of the land should be sold as would fetch the price for clearing the arrears. Some times a land is sold for one chuckram. I know of cases where certain rich people go round for bidding in revenue auction. They know that once they purchase the property in auction they can get a far larger amount than they have invested. A rich man goes to the Taluk Cutcherry and bids in auction a property for Rs. 5. The owner of the property is not aware of the auction proceedings. Afterwards when the purchaser goes to take possession of the property the owner becomes aware of the auction. Then the man who purchased the property will claim Rs. 50 or more. That is my submission. Another submission is that small cottage industries ought to be encouraged. Now there is no provision for supporting cottage industries.

Mr. P. N. Nilakanta Pillai: Sir, in congratulating the Financial Secretary for preparing a surplus budget, I wish to say that the allotment made for nation building activities is quite inadequate to meet the requirements of the country. The provision for the Agricultural Department is quite insufficient. There are very many places where there are no roads for two or three miles round. I can give the instance of places in the Quilon and Kottarakara taluks where there are no means of communication for two or three miles. It is difficult for people to take their produce to the markets except by head loads. There are no roads. There was a proposal to open a road from the 6th mile Quilon Shencotta road to Pooyapalli. First section of road was opened about ten years ago. The remaining work was not attended to at all. I do not know the reason for it. The Chief Engineer who was then Executive Engineer in Quilon knows the importance of that road. As ordered by Government, the people did the earthwork and private lands were purchased and given to the P. W. D. Still second portion of the road has not been opened. Better provision ought to be made in the Budget for the opening of ryots roads and their maintenance.

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The provision allotted for the Agricultural Department for helping the agriculturists is not adequate. In regard to manure depots proposed to be opened the number is not at all sufficient. At least 50 more depots ought to be opened and more manure should be supplied. Provision should be made for giving advances to agriculturists for purchasing seeds and bullocks. In view of the campaign for "grow-more-food", I think the Agricultural Department should be allowed more allotment. Along with the Agricultural Department, the Co-operative Department ought to do more work for growing more food. Therefore I doubt whether the Director of Agriculture, who has lot of work, will be able to cope with the duties devolving on him as Registrar of Co-operative Societies. I do know that the present Director is capable to conduct the affairs of both the departments. But I think it is better that another officer is appointed as Registrar of Co-operative Societies so that the present situation may be tackled more successfully.

The desire of Government for up-lifting the backward communities is evident from the increased provision for that Department. Realising the suffering of the low-paid subordinates a dearness allowance has been sanctioned to employees drawing up to Rs. 14. I submit that the allowance may be extended to those who are drawing a salary ranging up to Rs. 20 the proposal to open an industrial machinery show room will add stimulous to the people to start small cottage industries.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: Sir, I congratulate the Financial Secretary in coming forward with a surplus budget in spite of the most distressing war. Though we are in the midst of the war, our position at present is very good.

I congratulate the Financial Secretary for presenting surplus Budget. It is gratifying to note that in spite of the most distressing and devastating effect of this great war, our Government was able to increase the revenue to a peak point. Government deserves our warm appreciation for achieving this financial coup without imposing additional burden upon the poor tax payer. Though we are living in the midst of the war yet our position is not intolerable. We have no great shortage of food materials. There is no rationing of clothes nor light nor fuel. The prices of articles, are very high indeed, yet they are not higher than in many other places. We do not live under fear of daily bombardments ; we also live in our own houses. When we add up all these mercies we ought to be grateful to our Government. But the war is coming nearer and nearer and at any moment our peaceful existence may be threatened by the ruthless action of the enemy. We cannot be sanguine about our future. If we wish to grapple with the situation then,

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[Mr. A. Easwara Pillai.]

we have to solve several problems. At present the most serious of all those problems is the problem of food. Our staple food is rice. We require about six lakhs of tons of rice for our annual consumption. We produce only 2,50,000 tons annually, for the remaing 3,50,000 tons, we have to depend upon foreign markets. We used to get down rice from Burma and Siam. These markets are closed for us for the time being. Thanks to the timely action of our Government, in obtaining quota from the Madras Government for 80,000 tons of rice, but the importation of rice from South India is beset with difficulties. Yet we can count upon this quantity. To make up the balance we have either to increase our production or to substitute other articles of food materials. The declared policy of the Government seems to be "grow more food" in the country itself. All responsible persons and institutions appeal to the people to cultivate every inch of land available for the purpose. The Director of Agriculture who happens to be the food controlling officer exerts every nerve to induce the people to do their utmost in this direction. I concede that these appeals may have the value of propaganda, but they are not enough for acheving the object in view. The success depends upon the determined action of the persons who are primaily concerned with the production of these articles. They are the cultivators of the land. The inducements given to these people are not at all attractive. I may amplify my contention by giving one instance. Recently our Government have been pleased to assign certain grazing blocks, to some co-operative societies for cultivating tapioca. These lands are given free of assessment for a period of 3 years with the stringent condition that these lands should be planted with cashew-nuts; a sort of Taungya system insisted upon by the Forest Department. My submission is that the period of three years is too short for any profitable cultivation and also that the condition imposed is most objectionable because this is not the occasion for the Government to introduce a scheme for profitable plantation. Therefore I request the Government to give more concessions to these people for cultivating the lands assigned to them.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : പറക്കി അണ്ടി നട്ട കാര്യമാണോ അതോ കപ്പലണ്ടി നട്ടതു കാര്യമാ . ാ മെമ്പർ ചോദിച്ചതു?

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai : Yes. പറക്കിഅണ്ടി. Though these lands are called grazing blocks, the name grazing blocks is a misnomer. No grass is growing on these lands. On account of the frequent erosion, the surface soil has lost its fertility and the cultivators have to toil hard for making any profit out of them. Mysore

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and Madras Governments have recently assigned lands for similar purposes. The period fixed by Madras Government is 5 years and that of the Mysore Government is 10 years. They have also given the occupiers option to purchase the land after the expiry of the period. I request that Government should raise the period to ten years and liberal subsidies also be given to the cultivators for effective cultivation.

Then I wish to draw the attention of Government to another important point. The price of articles is increasing day by day. The big merchants who stock these articles are striving their utmost to make unconscionable profits. They insist on not giving bills or invoices for the articles sold. Our Government exercises a certain control through the District Magistrates. But this control is not at all effective nor it is uniform. It seems the Cochin Government has organised a special department for this purpose and officers are appointed to control profiteering by the merchants. They have also recently issued a notification which lays down that the merchants should issue bills and invoices for the sale of controlled commodities. It will be good, if the Government also consider this matter seriously and introduce some measure for effective control of prices.

The proposal of imposing an additional tax on rubber and also an export duty on timber is very timely and justifiable. Rubber dealers are now getting enormous profits. A large quantity of timber is exported from our country. We find it extremely difficult to get timber for our own requirements. Under the circumstances the imposition of this additional cess is amply justified.

Then on the expenditure side, our Government seems to be very conservative. I do concede that this is not the occasion for spending in a lavish scale. We should conserve our resource for emergency purposes. Yet I am of opinion that the allotments made for nation-building departments are at not all adequate. It is good that Government have set apart Rs. 2 lakhs for dearness allowance. The rate of Re. 1 per mensem is quite insufficient. The benefit should be extended to officers whose salary is below Rs. 50 Government ought to have considered the case of the grant-in-aid primary school teachers. There is a vast army of them, entrusted with the sacred duty of regenerating the minds of our future citizens. In normal times they are half-starved. But now their condition is most miserable. Hence I request the Government to make reasonable increase in their grant, so that they may pursue their avocation without fear of starvation and penury.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: Sir, I must begin by congratulating the Financial Secretary on the production of this budget which I have carefully read as also the memorandum on the same.

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[Mr. V. Sankara Menon.]

By reading the same, I was not able to find anything in it to justify the expression that it is a war budget. It would seem as though the authorities responsible for the production of the budget are confident that the repercussions of the war crisis won't greatly affect Travancore. I am glad of that optimistic confidence of the authorities and I only pray that their hopes may be fulfilled.

Though the usual features of expenditure are given in the budget, I would request Government to try, as far as possible, to make savings under possible headings and to utilize them for the relief of the poor in the State. Though only a few lakhs have been allotted for the purpose I would again repeat my request that more savings must be effected from the other items and these savings allotted for the relief of the suffering poor.

In this connection I may also just refer to one point on which if I may make bold to say, the entire attention of the Government may be pivoted at least for the time being. I refer to the condition of the poor people of Travancore. Sir, I am not forgetful of the selfless and strenuous efforts that are being made by the Government in that direction, but I fear the intentions of Government are not being sufficiently carried out to give full effect of the good purpose. One instance that I wish to point out here is about the distribution of rice. No doubt Government have made some sort of control of the price of rice. A couple of months ago, I tried to induce one of the prominent merchants at Chalai to make a sacrifice of personal profits to purchase rice and to sell it without any gain to the really deserving people of the town. A merchant of a very philanthropic temperament agreed to my proposal and from the last week of Mithunom onwards, he was regularly distributing from 5 to 10 bags of rice per day within a fixed period of one or two hours in the morning at a fixed price of 6 chs. 8 cash or 6 chs. 4 cash an average of 1 chuckram less per pucca from the prevailing market rate. I myself occasionally paid visits to the place where he conducted this charitable transaction, and I found the pitiable plight of the people, school-going children coming with small baskets for the purchase of one pucca at this comparatively low price and the hurly burly and the disappointment felt by some at not being able to get the same within the fixed time. Sir, the lesson that I have learnt by that pitiable sight is such that I feel that it is the prime duty of the authorities responsible for the administration of the country and the non-official representatives of the people to come to the rescue of the suffering people of the State and try, as far as possible, to induce people—thank God we do have such people among us—to do such noble actions like the merchant whom I mentioned. I

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would also request Government, in this connection, that if Government are satisfied as to the *bona fides* of charitable minded people who come forward with requests for large quantities of rice for distribution to the poor of the locality, they should extent their sympathy and give every facility to enable them to perform this noble action.

Sir, Budha is said to have wept whenever he saw the suffering even of animals. Sir, at this time I would request you as the Head of the Administration to be a Budha and also request your Assistants, the Heads of Departments to be Buddhas and so act in comformity so that the condition of the poor people of Travancore may be the primary concern of every body who has got some right or other to represent their interests.

Mr. E. G. Salter: Sir, may I be permitted to offer a few words of explanation in regard to the steps proposed to be taken by Government for the distribution of diesel oil for pumping operations in Kuttanad in order to allay the misgivings and the misapprehensions which appear to exist in the minds of some honourable members. In the first instance I may be permitted to explain that the international situation has rendered necessary the reduction of 25 per cent in the consumption of diesel oil throughout India. The reason will be obvious. It has exercised the minds of the oil companies to some exteut to determine in what manner to enforce such a cut. It would be quite easy, of course to reduce the allotments through their various distributing agencies by 25 per cent. I may inform the honourable members of this House that Government, foreseeing the very grave consequences of such a step in regard to the pumping operations in Kuttanad, endeavoured to impress upon the oil companies the necessity for one hundred per cent supplies so far as that purpose was concerned; and I am happy to be able to inform the House that the oil companies realise that it is a matter of paramount importance to the State and that there would be no cut so far as that object was concerned.

The next question is a matter of some justification. Government have recognised that last year there was some dislocation by reason of the fact that unscrupulous people represented themselves as bona fide agriculturists and prevailed upon some of the dealers to supply diesel oil to them and tried to sell it at a profit. An attempt is being made to overcome that this year by getting the agriculturists to join together and to form an organisation, which will virtually be a non-official rationing scheme. Government are putting this suggestion before the oil companies. The suggestion is that their agents will not be permitted to sell diesel oil except to those people who are in possession of permits issued by this committee

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[Mr. E. G. Salter.]

and the oil companies will be asked in their turn to inform that Committee and Government of the supplies made to their dealers before distribution in order to prevent sale to other than bona fide agriculturists, and to put us in a position to know the quantities in stock with the agents in order to prevent their pleading "no stocks" in an endeavour to force up prices. I am sure that with the co-operation of the agriculturists and the endeavours which are being made by Government there will be no trouble in regard to diesel oil this year.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Is the honourable member of the opinion that we need not stock the oil in Travancore?

Mr. E. G. Salter: That is a matter for the companies to decide. I think I am right in saying that there is already enough stock in Travancore.

Mr. James Fletcher: May I know whether groundnut oil could be used in the place of diesel oil?

Mr. E. G. Salter: I understand that the College of Engineering, Madrass, have been experimenting with a view to determine how far groundnut oil can be used as a substitute for diesel oil and they have reported that it can be used.

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar (*Director of Agriculture*): Sir, before I proceed to reply to the various points raised by the honourable member of this House during the course of the general discussion on the budget, I feel it my duty to express my thankfulness to them for the constructive and helpful remarks they have made. The central theme of the discussion, Sir, ranged round food production in the State. I would like to take the earliest opportunity to assure honourable members of the House that the food position in our State is safe and sound. Production within the Satate has been estimated to be about 50 to 52 per cent of the requirements of the people. The balance of about 48 to 50 per cent which we used to import from Burma, Siam and other places has ofcourse become impossible to obtain. Government have taken very prompt steps to secure an adequate quantity of rice from Madras to Travancore and Cochin, which together have a quota of 220 thousand tons per year. Our local production together with this quota that is available for Travancore will meet nearly 82 per cent of our requirments. I concede that there may be deficit of about 15 to 18 per cent. For this purpose Government and the Department and the Department of Agriculture have been carrying on an intensive drive to increase the outturn of food stuffs in the country. I am glad to be able to say that tapioca cultivation has spread to a considerable extent and there is not the slightest fear that there will be any deficit in our food requirments.

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In this connection I would like to inform the Honourable members of this House that we can make a cut with the quantity of rice that we consume without serious detriment provided we take steps to see that the paddy that we raise here is converted into hand-pounded rice. Firstly, we will get an increase in the quantity of rice in contradistinction to what we may be able to get by milling the rice. Secondly such rice as will be obtained will be much more nutritious than milled rice. At a time, Sir, when the Honourable members know that it is difficult to secure an adequate supply of crude oil or kerosene oil, both of which are essential for running rice mills, it will be very useful to attempt to convert all the paddy into hand-pounded rice. Thirdly Sir, with regard to meeting the food requirements, one Honourable member said that all our fish is exported. Fortunately or unfortunately, very little of our fish is exported now. The markets of Burma and Siam are lost to us. In collaboration with the research branch of the University I am trying my best to secure certain kinds of powders and receipes which could be made out of the available quantity of prawns which have lost the foreign market now. The consumption of rice and tapioca that is available in the State together with fish will be quite adequate to give us a balanced diet. One member suggested that it is essential that we should eat vegetable and leafy materials. I am entirely at one with him in this respect and would desire the encouragement of vegetable cultivation by argiculturists on a large scale.

The department of Agriculture is not going to rest content with the satisfaction that the Madras Government is going to give us some rice that we want for the time being. The department is carrying on an intensive campaign for increasing the out put of our food stuffs. It is a difficult problem in Travancore to extend the area under cultivation. The way to increase production is to grow two blades of paddy where only one grows now. To the members who stated that the number of manure depots established were inadequate, I would like to say that only a beginning has been made. It is the intention of Government to help the distribution of manures through the agency of Co-operative Societies which can open manure depots in the interior villages. The inadequacy of the required number of depots is not due to the fact that there is no intention on the part of the department to have any more depots.

Another point which was considered during the course of the debate was about the fixation of price of rice. This is a matter which has engaged the very serious and careful consideration of Government and I should at once say that Government have taken prompt measures in regard to fixation of price from time to time.

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[Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar.]

Even before the question was brought before the notice of Government the price of rice had been fixed at 13-5-0 at Trivandrum, 13-8-0 at Quilon and 13-12-0 at Alleppey. Now that the new quota has begun to flow into the country already 25 thousand bags have arrived in Travancore it will be the endeavour of the Government to fix the price of these quantities immediately.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: Is the member aware that the price of rice has risen to Rs. 14-8-0 from Rs. 13-5-0 in Trivandrum?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Yes, I am aware of it. Sir, during the course of the discussion on the possibility of extending the area under cultivation it was stated, I think it was my honourable friend Mr. Kuriyppe, that there are 5 lakhs of acres of land in the forests which could be disafforested. I am afraid I cannot countanance a proposition of this kind, having due regard to the fact, that there is close correlation between the agricultural production on the one hand and the conservation of forest on the other. But that does not mean that Government are averse to the policy of disafforestation under certain safe guards. I may assure the honourable member that the Conservator of Forests and I had a number of discussions on this subject. He has agreed to give on lease swampy areas which will not come into conflict with the forest policy as an emergency measure. The Conservator has also stated that he is prepared to give the grassy lands at Vandanmettu, Santhanpara etc., on the distinct condition that they would be properly terraced and cultivation carried on in them in accordance with directions. That will answer, Sir, the point raised by Mr. Park in respect of soil erosion. I may also say that a sub-committee of the Economic Development Board has considered this question of soil erosion very carefully and Government have ordered that in this matter propaganda should be carried out in close collaboration with the Chief Engineer in the first instance. Legislation will be resorted to if necessary at a later stage.

I have nothing more to say except to state that the Government are very keen in this matter of providing an adequate supply of food to the State.

Incidentally, reference was made by the honourable member, I think, Mr. Kittan, that nothing was done with regard to lift irrigation although mention was made about it last year. I think this impression is wrong. Two demonstrations with regard to lift irrigation were conducted in North Travancore and they were completely successful. The Lift Irrigation Committee which met under the presidency of the Dewan has decided upon a programme of expansion of

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the scheme for the next year also. I seek the hearty co-operation of the honourable members of this House in solving the urgent question that faces now *viz.* to produce as much food as possible in the State.

Mr. E. K. Kuryippe : ലിഫ്റ്റ് ഇറിഗേഷൻപദ്ധതി ഏതു കാലംകൊണ്ട് നടപ്പിലാക്കാമെന്ന് സദയം പ്രസ്താവിക്കുമോ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar : മുഴുവൻ സ്കീമും അഞ്ചുകൊല്ലംകൊണ്ടു നടപ്പിലാക്കാമെന്നു ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe : അപ്പോൾ തൽക്കാലം അതുകൊണ്ടു പ്രയോജനമില്ലെന്നു പ്രത്യക്ഷമാകുന്നില്ലേ.

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: തൽക്കാലം അതുകൊണ്ടു വലിയ പ്രയോജനം ഉണ്ടാകാൻ എളുപ്പമില്ല എന്നു മെമ്പർക്കുതന്നെ അറിയാമെല്ലോ?

Mr. Kochickal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : May I know how many acres of paddy land have been brought under the lift irrigation scheme ?

Mr. K. R. Narayna Aiyar : 100 acres were cultivated last year and there is a progamme for the cultivation of about 800 acres this year. The scheme can be taken up only stage by stage.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : May I draw how many acres of single-crop area have been converted into double-crop area ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar : About 100 acres till now.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan: പുറത്തുനിന്നും വരുത്തുന്ന അരിക്കുടി ഇവിടെത്തന്നെ വിളയിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar ; സാധിക്കാം.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : അതിലേക്കു വേണ്ടിയുള്ള സ്ഥലം വനങ്ങളിൽനിന്ന്, വനത്തിനു ദുഷ്യമില്ലാത്ത തരത്തിൽ കൃഷിക്കായി കൊടുക്കുന്നതിൽ വല്ല വിരോധവുമുണ്ടോ?

Mr. K. R. Narayan Aiyar : രണ്ടു കൊല്ലത്തിലൊരിക്കൽ കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ആണ്ടുതോറും കൃഷി ചെയ്യുകയാണെങ്കിൽ വിളവു വളരെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കും.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan . സർ, ഞാൻ അതല്ല ചോദിച്ചതു്.

President : He says that it is the only way in which it can be done.

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Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan (*Excise Commissioner*): In regard to one matter, that is about the suggested increase in the cess on raw rubber from 1-1-1118, I must say a few words. The opinion of this House itself was divided on the advisability or the necessity for increasing the cess on raw rubber. Elsewhere it was welcomed as a measure which will not burden the tax-payer at all. Huge profits are now being made by companies dealing in rubber. One company has made a profit of £ 22,384 in one year.

Mr. T. W. U. Park: May I know the capital investment of that company?

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan: I am not in possession of that figure. I am only saying that the profit made by one company is £ 22,384 and so the capital investment must be much more than that.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Is the honourable member aware that the cess on export will adversely affect the producer?

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan: No. The cess will not have any adverse effect on anybody.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I know whether the member is aware that the Sales Act in British India has affected the producer?

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan: No, it has not affected the producer because there is a definite price fixed.

In Ceylon export duty is Rs. 3-12-0 as against even the proposed enhanced rate of Rs. 1-8-0. Export duty forms the major part of the Customs revenue, which is the chief item of revenue for the State. When agricultural products like cocoanut is subject to an export duty one cannot understand why anybody should object to a small cess on raw-rubber. On general principle also this cess or export duty is imposed because Rubber is more or less of a monopoly item. After the fall of the Straits Settlements it is more than a monopoly, so far as this State is concerned. So there is no reason for keeping the cess very low at Re. 1 per cwt. With this explanation I hope honourable members will see their way to realise that the enhancement that has now been suggested in the cess rubber is only very modest.

Mr. T. Mahomed Ismail: May I know what has been done with regard to the even distribution of sugar throughout the State?

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan: I am glad to inform the House that wagons have been secured to bring sugar from North India. Within a couple of weeks that sugar will become available. I have made arrangements with the Travancore Sugars for an even distribution of the sugar throughout the State.

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Mr. K. Kunjan Pillai (*Secretary to Government in charge of the duties of the Chief Secretary*) Sir, I wish to say just a few words by way of reply to some of the remarks that have been made by some honourable members of this House. One honourable member has suggested that for curtailing the expenditure of the State superfluous offices should be abolished and wherever possible offices should be clubbed together. I may say at once that that has been the policy followed by the Government. It was only very recently that the office of the Devicolam Commissioner was abolished. It was only last year that the office of the Land Revenue Commissioner was abolished. My friend Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi now puts forward a proposal that the office of the Land Revenue Commissioner should be revived. So far as I am aware, Government have not received any complaint and Government are not aware of any hardship caused to the agriculturists of the country by the abolition of the Land Revenue Commissioner's Office.

This leads me on to the remarks made about the administration of the Land Revenue Department. One honourable member has suggested that it is necessary to modify the policy of Government in regard to the registry of lands consequent on encroachments. Encroachments have been registered in the past and in view of the larger interests of the country and of meeting the demands of the growing population of the State Government have to cry halt to this policy. In this connection I think I can do no better than quote the weighty words of our illustrious Dewan which he made during the last Budget Session of the Assembly. He stated as follows :

> "The last point which raises a large question is with regard to the policy of Government which has been recently enunciated and which I wish to have fully discussed on the floor of this House and elsewhere. That is with regard to the policy of encroachment of applications for registry in respect of puthuvals or applications in respect of cardamom lands.
>
> "At one time evidently there was a difficulty in colonising various parts of this State. Encroachments had therefore to be countenanced by the State and even by the Courts in order to enable enterprising people to settle in particular localities and utilise their powers of organisation and agricultural skilfulness in developing undeveloped tracts of the country. That time is past. We are now suffering from lack of land and a plethora of population. We cannot therefore adopt the principle of any laxity in the operation of the Land Conservancy Rules".

That has been the policy which has been recently initiated by the Government. As the honourable member, I think it was Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan, said if encroachments made unwitingly by the sides of registered holdings and such other cases are brought

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[Mr. K. Kunjan Pillai.]

to the notice of Government, although the rules are rigid, Government have not been slow in granting registry. But such registries are very seldom granted now. If Government feel that it is a case deserving exceptional treatment, then that will be granted. It all depends upon the circumstance of each case.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : May I ask the honourable member whether there has been a fair communal share in the matter of encroachments ? By that I mean whether all communities in proportion to their population have effected encroachments or whether only particular communities monopolised in encroachments. I am also fighting for communal right in this matter with a vengeance.

Mr. K. Kunjan Pillai : Government have not called for statistics in regard to that matter.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : May I ask, in the language of some of my friends, whether legitimate grievance of every community has been redressed ? Had every section of the community its due share in regard to encroachment ?

Mr. K. Kunjan Pillai : There has been such a demand from one section of the people. But Government in consideration of larger interest.....

Mr. T. Muhamed Ismail : May I know which was that section ?

Mr. K. Kunjan Pillai : I am not now in possession of that information. There was some demand but in view of the large interests and the growing.....

Mr. T. Muhamed Ismail : May I know from which community that demand came ?

Mr. K. Kunjan Pillai : At this moment I am not able to give the information to the House.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : My I know whether it was not from the backward community that the demand came ?

Mr. K. Kunjan Pillai : There has not been a demand from any particular community. But there was a demand from some section of the people.

Mr. T. Muhamed Ismail : May I know which is the section that generally encroaches ?

Mr. K. Kunjan Pillai : Those people who encroach on demands are the encroachers.

Mr. T. Muhamed Ismail : May I know in which area whether it is in the hilly tracts or coastal area, that encroachments are largely effected ?

Mr. K. Kunjan Pillai : Encroachments are found throughout the State, in every part of the country.

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Sir, remarks have been made about the coercive process as taken in the matter of realising tax. I hope I shall be able to advert to that matter when dealing with the motion with regard to the Land Revenue demand. I do not propose to take up the time of the House by adverting to that matter or expatiating on it at this moment. But at the same time I may answer a few remarks made by the honourable member Mr. Fletcher.

President: The honourable member has only 2 minutes more.

Mr. K. Kunjan Pillai: Mr. Fletcher stated that pokkuvaravu cases are not disposed of in proper time. There are rules with regard to that matter. If any Tahsildar or Proverthicar is found delinquent in that matter Government will take serious action with a view to see that there is no repetition of such delay. In regard to the complaint that large extent of properties are being sold for the recovery of arrears of land revenue there are rules laying down that only sufficient lands to cover the amount of tax should be sold.

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I thank the honourable members for their kind words said about my budget speech. As was said by me elsewhere, the Financial Secretary is only the mouth-piece of Government in presenting the budget and as such he does not deserve any congratulation except perhaps to a very limited extent for the arrangement and putting in shape of the material available with and retained by him.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Sir, the Financial Secretary is absolutely inaudible.

President: The honourable Member will kindly speak loud.

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar: The heads of Departments and the Chief Secretary to Government have dealt with matters of general policy and I shall deal only with a few financial points raised by the honourable members. The honourable Member Mr. Kuruvilla raised the question why the heads of departments should save under Agricultural and Industrial Loans as stated in the Audit Report and the Appropriation Accounts for 1116. I would invite a reference in this connection to page 138 of the same report where such savings have been explained.

The savings under Agricultural loans were due to the discontinuance of the grant of Agricultural loans by Government, the work having been entrusted to the Travancore Credit Bank. The savings under Industrial loans were due to the enquiries on several

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[Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar.]

pending applications not having been completed during the year and to the rejection of a number of applications for loans on account of unsatisfactory security.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: May I ask why these enquiries were left incomplete in the course of the year?

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar: As regards the decrease in the allotments under P. W. D. mentioned by the honourable Member, Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi it will be seen from the budget estimates that under Road Development an amount to the extent of 2 lakhs of rupees have been allotted next year against an expenditure of 1 lakh of rupees in the revised estimate. Under "Communications" there is an increase of about Rs. one lakh in the next year's budget as compared with the revised estimates.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: May I know the amount allotted for Industrial Loans.

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar: Rs. 10,000.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: How much was spent last year under this head?

President: I think the honourable Member can ask this question when the proper demand comes up for discussion.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: On page 7 of the Budget Memorandum the percentage of salaries and establishment is stated as Rs. 34·1 per cent in 1118 against 31·11 per cent in 1117. May I know what is the reason for this difference in percentage?

Mr A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar: I shall look into the statement and explain the doubt of the honourable Member.

Mr. Puthupally S. Krishna Pillai: Sir, may I be permitted to point out that according to the standing order the meeting should terminate at 5 P. M. unless the President gives a ruling otherwise.

President: But as we commenced the sitting rather late I thought it advisable to sit a bit late.

Mr. Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai: That is I want to know Sir, whether any special direction has been given and if so at what time should the House rise.

President: At 5-15.

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar: As regards the question raised by the honourable Member Mr. Kitten.....

Mr. T. K. Kitten: എന്റെ ചോദ്യത്തിനാണ മറുപടി പറയുന്നതെങ്കിൽ ദയവുചെയ്തു മലയാളത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar: Sir I shall answer in English as I do not know Malayalam. As regards the large difference in liabilities at the end of 1117 as shown in the Budgets of 1117 and 1118 I would invite attention to the large minus figure

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Rs. 255,73,000 shown under liabilities against Government account in the Budget for 1117. This figure represents the amount which Government have drawn upon for productive capital works from the Debt head balances available with them after spending all their surpluses. These investments on reproductive works are real assets. The correct manner in which the expenditure on productive works should be shown is therefore to treat them as assets and not as minus liability. On account of this change the large minus figure does not appear now under liabilities but the investments on productive capital works are shown as assets. This is also the procedure adopted in Cochin.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mohammed Ismail: May I know whether it is a principle and whether the budget has been framed on the model of Cochin.

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar: It may not be a principle. The minus liability was removed to the asset side to show the correct position. The procedure is adopted not only in Cochin but also elsewhere.

Mr. T. K. Kitten: ലയബിലിറ്റി എന്ന വച്ചാൽ കടം അ ണല്ലോ. ആ സ്ഥലത്തു് സ്വത്തിന്റെ സംഖ്യ കൊണ്ടെഴുന്നതെങ്ങനെ? കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലത്തിലും ഈ ഇനത്തിൽരണ്ടുകോടിയിൽ ചിലപ്പോൾ രൂപാ കൊള്ളിച്ചിരുന്നതായി കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. അപ്രകാരം ചെയ്യാൻ പാടില്ല. ഗവൺമെൻറു ചെയ്യുന്ന തെറ്റായിപ്പോയി എന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ മതി.

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar: Yes. There is no question of a minus liability. It is only an asset. It is not a mistake. But it is not correctly expressed.

I shall explain it further. These figures represent the amount which the Government draw for productive works from other balances. As these balances are shown as liabilities the investments therefrom should be shown only as assets.

Mr. T. K. Kitten: ഈ രണ്ടു കോടിരൂപാ തെറ്റായി എഴുതി യതുകൊണ്ടാണു് വ്യത്യാസം വന്നതെന്നു അല്ലേ ഇതിൽനിന്നും അനു മാനിക്കേണ്ടതു്?

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar: As I already said there is no mistake. But the position was not correctly exhibited.

Mr. T. K. Kitten: കണക്കുശാസ്ത്രം അനുസരിച്ചു് പറഞ്ഞു കേൾപ്പിക്കണം.

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar: I shall explain the position to the honourable member personally.

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President: In winding up the General Discussion of the Budget, I must express the thanks of the Government for the very helpful and useful suggestions made by the Honourable Members of this House. And I may briefly touch on one or two points referred to by some of the honourable members in dealing with some important aspects in the Budget.

In regard to crude oil, I might say that Government have already made necessary arrangements for the supply of adequate quantities for the next season; and in regard to its distribution, a suggestion was made that a special officer should be appointed for the purpose, the Government taking over the entire quantity at their disposal. The matter was considered and Government feel that such arrangement might not be feasible or even expedient at present; but the persons responsible for the application of the crude oil might themselves undertake the work of distribution. And three members of the Kuttanad Agricultural Association have already formed themselves into a Committee and have asked Government to give them sufficient facilities in order to get into touch with the Oil Companies and see that sufficient quantities are entrusted to them for the purpose of distribution at a reasonable price. In fact, they have interviewed Mr. Salter who has been very helpful with regard to this arrangement and I hope the problem will be solved satisfactorily with the conjoint efforts of Mr. Salter and this Committee. Besides, if any special help is required from Government, that will be forthcoming in ample measure.

Now, as regards the savings under certain heads referred to by Mr. Kuruvilla, I must point out to this honourable house that it is the intention of Government to see that the allotments for the P. W. D. and certain Departments of a commercial character do not lapse. For this purpose, a three year programme will be worked out and the funds which might lapse in one year will be carried over to the next year till that item of work for which the funds were allotted is completed.

The most important question discussed on the floor of this House relates to the problem of food production. And, evidently this must be engaging the attention of not only this House but of the whole country. Government are fully aware of the gravity of our food problem and I can at once say that there is no more urgent matter which engages the serious consideration of Government than the question of adequate supply of rice and other essential materials to meet the requirements of the State. A suggestion was made that the Government themselves should open rice depots for this purpose which it was hoped would ease the present situa-

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tion. Unfortunately, Government take a different view and that for good reasons. The experience during the last war in this respect was neither encouraging nor satisfactory. It would be much more economic, prudent and useful, if other arrangements better suited to the present situation are introduced. In this regard I cannot omit to express the Government's thankfulness to appreciation and the valuable services which have been rendered by the Director of Agriculture who is also the Controller of Food Grains, and by Mr. Salter who represents Travancore at the Regional Transport Board, Madras. The Conferences in Madras which Mr. Narayana Aiyar and Mr. Salter have been asked to attend have been productive of very good results. In fact, but for the very strenuous and patriotic efforts put forth at these conferences, we would have been at a great disadvantage today I am very glad that things are kept going as a result of their endeavours. If any imperfections and defects are noticed, it is open to the honourable members of this House to approach Government or Messrs. Narayana Iyer and Salter and I am sure they will take it up with the authorities concerned and solve the difficulties.

As regards the campaign to grow more food, I can assure the House that Government have taken up the matter very seriously and after the Budget session is over, a vigorous drive will be undertaken and the expectations formed by honourable members of this House will be fulfilled to the utmost extent possible.

I am glad that the Budget that has been presented has been well received and the record figure of revenue-receipts is a matter which we are to be legitimately proud of. Our tribute of praise goes obviously to that great statesman who has been piloting the affairs of the State for the last six years.

The House will now rise and meet again tomorrow at 11 A. M.

The House adjourned at 5-20 P. M.

Trivandrum,
3rd August 1942.

V. S. ARUMUKHOM PILLAI,
Secretary to the Sri Chitra State Council.

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